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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 66/NO. 36 SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

INSIDE

How U.S. gov't planned invasion of Cuba in 1962

— PAGE 7

U.S., British warplanes target Iraqi air defenses

Tens of thousands of imperialist troops are deployed in Gulf

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

U.S. and British warplanes have been stepping up their attacks on Iraq, targeting that country's air defenses. The Pentagon has also put in place equipment allowing it to rapidly fly two armored divisions—around 34,000 troops—into the Arab-Persian Gulf region. Tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers are already deployed on U.S. bases and warships that ring the Arabian Peninsula.

As Washington pressed its march toward an invasion of Iraq, the Saudi government, in a switch from its previous stance, indicated it would allow U.S. forces to use its territory for the planned assault, if done under the cover of United Nations endorsement.

Over the past weeks, Washington has accelerated the buildup of its forces for launching a full-scale air and ground assault on Iraq. Among the signs of this preparation are:

• An increase in the number of U.S.-British raids into Iraqi airspace. Invading aircraft carried out nine missile and bomb attacks against Iraqi targets in August. Some 100 U.S. and British war planes bombed air defenses in western Iraq September 5. "There's been a very obvious pickup in the number of strikes," said Patrick Garrett, a military analyst in Washington quoted by

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U.S. soldiers on military maneuvers in Mideast. Washington is building up its military forces in the region as it marches toward war for greater control of vast oil reserves.

FBI's 'al Qaeda' raids target U.S. citizens

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a new attack on workers' rights, the FBI in mid-September arrested six U.S. citizens of Yemeni descent. Born in the United States and living in Lackawanna near Buffalo, New York, the six young men were charged with providing "material support" to a "terrorist organization."

Accusations by U.S. officials that they were part of an "al Qaeda sleeper cell" have fed a frenzied campaign in the big-business media to justify the trampling of their constitutional rights.

FBI agents arrested one of the six, Mukhtar al-Bakri, at his wedding party in Bahrain. The others being held are Shafal Mosed, 24, Yahya Goba, 25, Sahim Alwan, 29, Yasein Taher, 24, and Faysal Galab, 26.

Federal officials announced September 17 that they are pursuing Kamal Derwish, another alleged member of the group, in Yemen.

Justice Department officials admitted that they had no evidence that any kind of attack by these individuals was imminent, nor that any of them had any weapons, or had ever participated in any violent act.

Their "crime," in the eyes of U.S. officials, stems from the fact that in the spring of 2001 they traveled to Pakistan to study Islamic religion and culture under the auspices of Tablighi Jamaat, a religious group. The organization holds an annual three-day gathering near Lahore, Pakistan, which last year attracted 1 million people.

The law under which they are being charged—the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act—was put into effect in 1996 under the Clinton administration. This act, which was also used to charge John Walker Lindh, makes it illegal to provide "material support or resources" to any group designated by the U.S. government as a "terrorist" organization. "Material support," according to the legislation, encompasses almost anything of value except for medical and religious supplies.

Defenders of constitutional rights point out that the law is based on guilt by association. Under the legislation, U.S. authorities can define terrorism to include a broad range of activities protected by the First Amendment, "including merely writing an op-ed piece or lobbying," noted David Cole, a law professor at Georgetown University.

Meanwhile, in Portland, Oregon, Muslim clergyman Sheik Mohamed Abdirahman Kariye, 40, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Somalia, was arrested September 8 by U.S. officials before boarding a plane to the

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New York City, Saturday, September 28

Communists and the World Struggle against Imperialism Today

Speakers

Jack Barnes
National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

Jason Alessio
UMWA miner, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Colorado

Arrin Hawkins
Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor in New York

Mary-Alice Waters
Editor of *New International*

Martín Koppel
Editor of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*

Ma'mud Shirvani
Farsi editor, Pathfinder Press

Olympia Newton
Young Socialists National Leadership Council, Socialist Workers candidate for secretary of state in California

- Iraq and the Arabian peninsula: Washington's drive to redivide the region and dominate oil
- A new world depression is unfolding
- Deepening contradictions in U.S. labor: opportunities and dangers
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Kanak people fight for control of nickel resources

BY ARLENE TATE AND CHRISTIAN COURNOYER

NOUMÉA, New Caledonia—"In the past, we have let the mining exploiters do whatever they want and pollute our earth, which still carries the traces of that. It is time for this to stop," declared the Great Chiefs Moyatea and Tein to 5,000 demonstrators outside the Province buildings in Nouméa, the capital of New Caledonia, on August 30. "We don't need our children to accuse us of having wasted their inheritance," they added.

The 5,000 participants demanded the withdrawal of a nickel prospecting permit in the Prony region, granted by French authorities to Goro Nickel, which is majority-owned by the Canadian mining company Inco.

Militant reporters who visited this French colony in the South Pacific in the first week of September were able to speak to people in the area, along with other fighters for sovereignty, and gain a picture of the centrality of the nickel industry to the fight by the indigenous Kanak people and others for national development and control over the islands' resources.

The protest was called by the Collective for the Defense and the Control of the Mining

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San Francisco hotel workers win contract, press fight

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

SAN FRANCISCO—Workers here won a victory after a six-year fight as the owners of the Marriott Hotel on Fourth Street in downtown San Francisco agreed to a contract with Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE) Local 2. Workers approved the contract September 12 by a vote of 479 in favor and 75 against.

At the same time, workers at other hotels in the area are engaged in related union fights.

The Marriott bosses strongly resisted the

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Warplanes target Iraqi air defenses

Continued from front page

The Guardian of London.

On September 16, U.S. secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld said U.S. pilots had already begun expanding their targets in Iraq, from antiaircraft weapons and radar to air command and communications bases. He said he had ordered this shift more than a month ago.

"This is something you do to prepare the battlefield," said former Gulf naval commander Rear Admiral Stephen Baker. "The more you can chip away at their defenses, the less you have to do later."

The U.S. Central Command is provisionally moving its headquarters, together with 600 of its command staff, from Tampa, Florida, to Qatar. They will join Gen. Thomas Franks, head of the Central Command, at the al-Udeid air base in November. While saying the purpose of the move is for the officers to participate in the biennial "Internal Look" military maneuvers, U.S. officials said the move could be permanent.

In November, generals of the U.S. Third Army will set up their headquarters in Kuwait, aiming to make it the hub of the expected U.S. ground operations in Iraq.

• Some 57,000 U.S. troops are estimated to be in the region—almost three times the average number over recent years.

Well over 10,000 troops are stationed on ships of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, which patrols the Gulf with an aircraft carrier, cruisers, destroyers, an attack submarine, and other warships.

• Some 440 U.S. warplanes are already in the Gulf. The Pentagon has asked London for authorization to station up to six B-2 Stealth bombers on Diego Garcia, an atoll in the Indian Ocean that serves as a British military base. The planes are currently based at the Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, 6,800 miles from their targets in the Gulf. Basing the planes on the British colonial outpost will eliminate the need for midair refueling and enable them to fly more combat missions.

In light of the Saudi regime's earlier stance that U.S. and British troops could not use its territory to launch an assault on Iraq, U.S. forces have been rapidly expanding their facilities in Qatar. Some 2,000 U.S. military personnel are upgrading the al-Udeid base in that country, installing electronic infrastructure to be able to launch and coordinate large-scale air raids. The base is expected to house 10,000 troops on its completion at the end of the year.

The government of Qatar, a tiny oil-rich kingdom, has a two-thirds share in the North Dome gasfield under the Gulf seabed, the world's largest known gas reserve, developed in conjunction with ExxonMobil. The other third lies in Iranian territorial waters. Qatar's population is made up of 140,000 citizens and 630,000 immigrants, who are the backbone of the country's labor force.

Saudi gov't opens territory to U.S. forces

The Bush administration has taken the U.S. war campaign to the United Nations. In a September 12 speech, Bush told the UN General Assembly it had to "show some backbone" in supporting Washington's aggressive course toward Iraq. He repeated U.S. accusations that the Iraqi government has chemical and biological weapons and is developing nuclear arms.

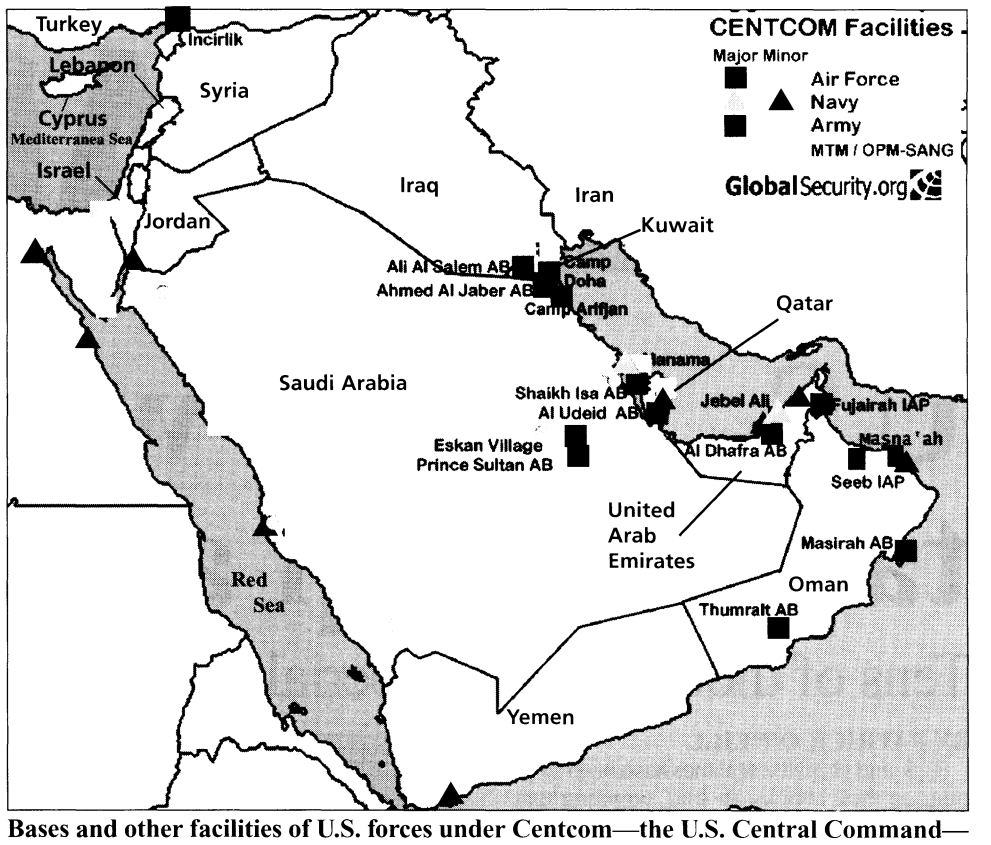
Responding to governments that have argued that Washington should first demand that Baghdad allow UN-sponsored "weapons inspectors" back into Iraq, U.S. officials began to press for a new UN Security Council resolution warning Iraq to agree to a number of imperialist-backed demands or face a military assault: to disarm, permit "inspectors" to verify its disarmament, free imperialist-backed prisoners, and respect "human rights" as defined by the U.S. government.

After Bush's UN speech, the Saudi regime indicated it would permit U.S. forces to use its Prince Sultan base and other military facilities there in a UN-backed assault on Iraq.

"Everybody is obliged to follow through" on Bush's call for a Security Council ultimatum to be placed on Baghdad, said Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal September 14. The Saudi rulers are aware of the shaky position they are in, given the massive deployment of U.S. troops already surrounding the Arabian Peninsula, which stands as a warning to all the governments in the region.

Other governments that had previously taken a public distance from the U.S. war moves declared support for Bush's demand for Security Council-imposed inspections of Iraq's alleged weapons production facilities. "We want Iraq to implement the Security Council resolutions, which will end the current crisis," said Foreign Minister Mahmud Hammud of Lebanon.

In calling for UN endorsement of U.S. policy, Bush also made it clear that Washington will proceed with its preparations to attack. "The purposes of the United States should not be doubted," he said. "The Security Council resolutions will be enforced, the just demands of peace and security will be met, or action will be unavoidable."



Bases and other facilities of U.S. forces under Centcom—the U.S. Central Command—that ring the Arabian Peninsula. Washington is moving equipment and troop reinforcements into the region in preparation for full-scale ground and air assault on Iraq.

82nd Airborne as an 'inspection team'

U.S. officials termed Baghdad's September 16 announcement that it would permit "unfettered" inspections by UN officials a "tactical step [taken] in hopes of avoiding strong UN Security Council action." Bush repeated his September 12 message, saying that "United Nations Security Council must act."

"The 82nd Airborne is the best inspections regime," editorialized the *Wall Street Journal* September 18.

Writing in the British weekly *The Spectator,* columnist Bruce Anderson observed that White House officials are "involving" the UN "on the assumption that it will be helpful...without allowing it a right of veto. There will be one final, though wholly insincere, attempt to impose arms inspections."

The debate in the big-business media on how to conduct a war reflects the scope of the coming assault and the war moves already under way. Anderson reported favorably on one of the invasion plans being openly debated. The invasion, he said, could be carried out without the kind of armor and hundreds of thousands of troops that were deployed in the 1990–91 Gulf War. "The Americans—and the British—would advance in light vehicles, using air power, missiles and attack helicopters to destroy Iraq tanks and troop concentrations," he wrote.

U.S. generals would require only 20 days to put a fighting force of 50,000 troops into action, said John Pike, the head of GlobalSecurity.org, a military thinktank in Washington. A force of 200,000 could be assembled in two months, he stated.

The confidence of such pro-Washington commentators is based partly on the substantial weakening of Iraq's military forces in the last decade. Blocked by UN sanctions from purchasing parts or new weapons on the open market, the government has been unable to stop the deterioration of a military machine that suffered huge losses during the 1990–91 war.

Iraq's government has reinforced the defenses of Baghdad and other cities with troops and antiaircraft weapons. Forces in Baghdad include the 80,000 members of the Republican Guard, a relatively well-trained and -equipped section of the army.

'Who gets the oil?'

Behind the drive to war in the Mideast is the region's vast oil resources. "When it's over, who gets the oil?" asked the headline of an opinion column by Daniel Morgan and David Ottaway published in the September 15 *Washington Post*. "A U.S.-led ouster of President Saddam Hussein could open a bonanza for American oil companies long banished from Iraq, scuttling oil deals between Baghdad and Russia, France and other countries and reshuffling world petroleum markets," they wrote.

"All five permanent members of the Security Council—the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China—have international oil companies with major stakes in a change of leadership in Baghdad."

Morgan and Ottaway quoted James Woolsey, a former CIA director. If France and Russia "throw in their lot with Saddam," he warned, "it will be difficult to the point of impossible to persuade the new Iraqi gov-

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THE MILITANT

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Kanak people fight for control of nickel wealth

Continued from front page

Patrimony of Prony (CDMPP). The collective includes diverse forces, from independence fighters of the indigenous Kanak population, environmentalists, and women's rights activists, to the Alliance, a party that supports French colonial rule.

"We are now going to fight like the Inuits of Canada fought, and obtained what they wanted," said Victor Tutugoro, spokesperson of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), a coalition of pro-independence parties that is supported by the overwhelming majority of Kanaks.

Further national protests against the Goro project have been called for September 27.

Many residents of the area told the *Militant* that they oppose the mine development. Concern for its environmental impact, and especially that of the smelter scheduled for construction nearby, helped to build participation in the August 30 protest.

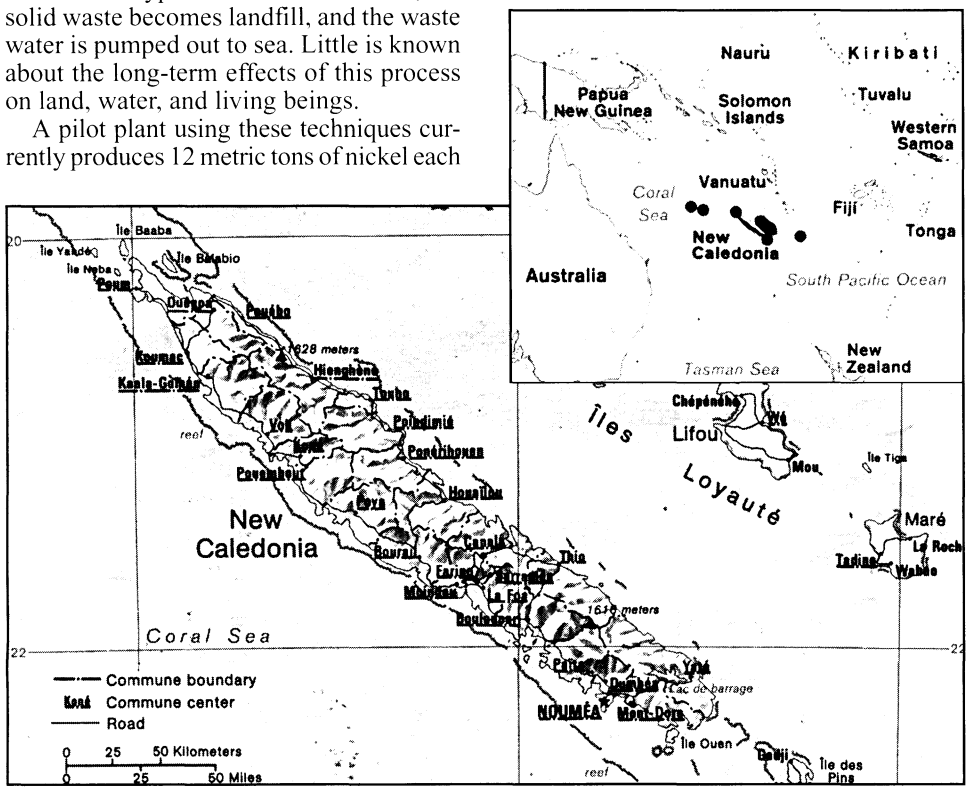
The smelter, which will be located on a 150-acre site, will extract the nickel using new technology in which the mine slurry is subjected to heat and pressure and treated with sulfuric acid to yield both nickel and cobalt. The byproducts are neutralized, the solid waste becomes landfill, and the waste water is pumped out to sea. Little is known about the long-term effects of this process on land, water, and living beings.

A pilot plant using these techniques currently produces 12 metric tons of nickel each year. The planned smelter will produce 50,000 tons. In the context of the high unemployment among Kanaks, many people in the area also expressed concern about plans to bring in 1,500 workers from the Philippines to work in the smelter's construction.

Two weeks after the protest, Radio Australia reported that the company managing work at the Goro site had suspended operations. Following recent blockades of the site by the employees of a subcontractor, Goro Nickel has recalled its mostly Australian expatriate workers from the islands.

Collective for the Defense and Control of the Mining Patrimony of Prony

Some 5,000 people marched August 30 in New Caledonia demanding withdrawal of nickel mining permit to Canadian company Inco. Banner reads, "Collective for the Defense and Control of the Patrimony of Prony." Control of nickel industry is central in the Kanak-led fight over use of the island's resources and against French colonial rule.



A colony of French imperialism

New Caledonia's nickel reserves offer a considerable stake for the French imperialists in seeking to maintain their colonial grip in the face of repeated struggles for independence.

The territory was annexed by France in 1853. Paris stationed troops here and ruled the territory as one of its Pacific properties, in part by fostering divisions between the Kanaks—consigned to a second-class status and subject to vicious racism—and the colons, or settlers from France. Within 25 years the opposition of the indigenous Kanak people had grown into organized resistance.

In the 1980s the French rulers responded violently to an upsurge in the fight for independence, massacring Kanak activists and assassinating leaders of the independence struggle. By 1988 New Caledonia was occupied by 10,000 French military personnel. The total population of the islands is 196,870, and Kanaks are the largest national grouping at 44 percent of the total, or 86,800 people, according to the 1996 census.

Unable to quell the Kanak struggle in spite of this repression, the French government was compelled to negotiate with representatives of the independence movement. The result was the 1988 Matignon Accord, which established three provincial assemblies, two of which, the Northern Province and the Loyalty Islands, are governed by the FLNKS. Much the wealthiest region, the Southern province, which includes the capital, Nouméa, is dominated by forces that back continued French colonial rule, in particular the right-wing Rally for Caledonia within the Republic (RPCR).

Ten years later the Nouméa Accord called for a gradual transfer of power from the French government, with a referendum on independence to be held in 15 to 20 years.

The colonial booty of nickel

In 2001, nickel accounted for 90 percent of New Caledonia's export earnings. The territory is the world's third largest producer of the metal after Russia and Canada, with an estimated quarter of the world's reserves.

Nickel's resistance to corrosion and heat makes it indispensable in many industrial processes and thousands of products, including stainless steel and other metal alloys, circuit boards, and batteries.

The market for the valuable metal is highly cyclical. From 2000 to 2001, for example, the price per pound declined from $3.92 to $2.19, a fall of 31 percent.

The industry is set to increase its dominance of New Caledonia's economy with plans by Canadian companies Falconbridge and Inco to expand in both the Northern and Southern provinces. With these two major projects, the Bank of Hawaii forecasts that nickel production will rise from around 25 percent to 50 percent of New Caledonia's gross domestic product.

Historically the industry has been controlled by a state monopoly, the Nickel Corporation (SLN), owned and operated by the French government. Over the last decade, however, SLN has had to shed some of this control in the face of Kanak demands for a share in the island's resources. Up to 30 percent of the monopoly has been transferred to enterprises that are half-owned by provincial governments in which Kanak representatives have a majority, and half-owned by Promosud of the Southern Province.

In a deal arranged by the French government following the Matignon Accord, RPCR leader Jacques Lafleur sold his interest in the Mining Society of the South Pacific (SMSP) to a holding company run by the Northern Province government.

Under this arrangement, SMSP has emerged as a major player in New Caledonia's mining industry, today exporting the annual equivalent of 40,000 tons of nickel ore. But this is in a raw, unsmelted form. SLN, on the other hand, exports 50,000 tons of nickel processed at its smelter in Nouméa—currently the only such operation in New Caledonia.

Essential for development

Representatives of the FLNKS told the *Militant* that they insisted on securing further mining rights for SMSP at Koniambo in the Northern Province before signing the 1998 Nouméa Accord. SMSP plans to build a smelter in the north as a joint venture with Falconbridge—an important step, said the independence fighters, in beginning to "rebalance" the territory's development.

Nickel is essential to the economic development of New Caledonia, said the FLNKS representatives. While Nouméa is a relatively modern industrial city, the predominantly Kanak-populated countryside has lagged far behind, including in the provision of water, electricity, and roads.

These factors bear on the controversy over the Inco mine at Goro. The mining company will import processing materials, export the ore, and dispose of the waste, providing little benefit to the population. In contrast, many Kanaks expect the new Falconbridge-SMSP smelter and associated mines to furnish working people with economic benefits.

The nickel mines are widely viewed as the national patrimony of New Caledonia–Kanaky. Newspapers here carry optimistic projections for the expansion of nickel demand based on expanding world trade. However, the reality of an unfolding world depression is already having a visible and growing impact on the industry.

Although independence fighters are still confronted with the task of wresting control of the country from France, the colonial power, the increased involvement of Canadian mining companies in the territory poses new questions for the Kanak population and other working people in New Caledonia.

Despite 62% 'no' vote, Boeing pact is in effect

BY CECELIA MORIARITY

SEATTLE—Some 25,000 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) in Washington, Oregon, and Wichita, Kansas, are working under a new contract after voting on the Boeing Company's three-year, concession contract offer. In the September 13 ballot 62 percent voted to reject the contract, and 61 percent to strike. Since this was just short of the two-thirds majority required under the union's constitution, Boeing's offer came into effect.

In rejecting the contract, workers singled out the company's takeback demands on health coverage and proposals to contract out work formerly done by union members.

The document's provisions of a 8 percent bonus in the first year, and increases of 2 percent in the second year and 2.5 percent in the third, along with a slight raise in pension payments, are offset by an increase in health premiums of several thousand dollars a year.

The new contract gives Boeing the go-ahead to carry out wholesale subcontracting, including the right to bring subcontractors and vendors onto the union shop floor. In recommending that workers vote to reject the company's offer and authorize a strike, IAM negotiators said that this provision would threaten the jobs of thousands of union members.

A number of workers told reporters they were disappointed by the outcome and the fact that they would not be striking. "It leaves a bad taste in your mouth," said John Valenzuela, an inspector on engine shrouds in Wichita.

"We have a contract that's ratified basically under protest," said Diane Goodwin, a quality assurance inspector at a plant in Auburn, Washington. "But we don't have a choice. I'm going to do my job whether I like it or not."

David Clay, a tool maker, said, "The company kept saying, 'Times are tough. This isn't going to be good for our customers,' and all that talk affected some workers." Citing "economic reality," the company used the steep decline in aircraft orders as the basis for its concession demands.

Added to the impact of the overcapacity in air travel and the resulting drop-off in orders by crisis-ridden airlines like United Airlines, Boeing faces intense competition from its European rival Airbus. Industry ob–servers said that the company expects to deliver some 380 commercial jets this year and 275 to 300 next year, down from 527 in 2001.

"Nobody can guarantee jobs and security.... Capitalism and the markets will decide," Alan Mulally, chief of Boeing's commercial division, said at a press conference. He said Boeing could implement even more layoffs beyond the 30,000 underway for this year if "pivotal orders" are not secured within the next two or three months.

Negotiations will begin October 29 on a new contract between the aerospace company and the Society for Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA). The present contract, won after 40 days on the picket lines in early 2000, expires December 1.

Meanwhile, the day after the Boeing ballot 1,400 workers at the company's helicopter plant near Philadelphia went on strike in opposition to the company's contract offer, which includes an attack on their health coverage.

The walkout will reportedly slow deliveries of the CH-47 Chinook, a transport helicopter used by the U.S. armed forces in Afghanistan. The unionists are organized by the United Auto Workers.

From Pathfinder

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by Jack Barnes

In ***New International*** no. 4.

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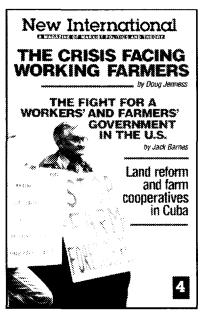

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 8, or visit www.pathfinderpress.com

Socialists campaign against imperialism, sell subs to 'Militant'

BY JACK WILLEY

The first week of the drive to sell subscriptions to the socialist press and copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder* and *New International*s got off to a strong start in a number of cities where socialist election campaigners won subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, the campaign newspapers.

A number of good examples point the way for keeping up the pace that has put the drive on target and has put nearly 60 copies of the campaign books in the hands of working people and students.

Campaigners for Jason Alessio, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the Third District in western Colorado, set up communist literature tables at public events in Colorado Springs and Boulder where Hanan Ashrawi, a well-known spokesperson for the Palestinian struggle, spoke. They joined with students and others defending Ashrawi's right to speak in face of attempts by capitalist politicians and others to block her speaking engagements (see article on page 9). They sold seven *Militant* subscriptions; three copies of *New International* no. 7, with the lead article "Opening Guns Of World War III"; two copies of *New International* no. 10, which features "Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War"; and other books totaling $225 worth of Pathfinder literature.

"We would have sold more books but we ran out of most of our stock featuring the history of the Palestinian people," said Jack Parker. "One person said he already had *New International* nos. 7 and 10 and decided to buy *To See the Dawn, Baku, 1920—First Congress of the Peoples of the East,* and *Israel: A Colonial-Settler State?*"

Four students from Northern Colorado College in Greeley invited Alessio to meet with them on their campus.

On September 7, the socialist campaigners set up a table in front of the City Market grocery store in the town of Craig. For several hours, ranchers, coal miners, and others stopped by to talk to the candidate. Three walked away with *Militant* subscriptions and a rancher invited Alessio to his house to talk more about the devastating effects of the drought plaguing the United States and other parts of the world.

In Twin Cities, Minesota September 12, campaigners for socialist candidates Kari Sachs for governor, Samuel Farley for lieutenant governor, and Barry Fatland for U.S. Senate set up a literature table at a teach-in on Iraq at the University of Minnesota. "The table was swamped as soon as we set it up," said Sachs. Two people bought subscriptions and some $80 in Pathfinder books was sold.

In the afternoon they campaigned at a busy intersection on campus. One student took down notes of Pathfinder titles on the Jewish question and on the Palestinian struggle. He said he had been raised a Zionist but really wanted to read "the other side." He bought a copy of the pamphlet *How Can the Jews Survive?* by George Novack. Two women who met Sachs came to a Militant Labor Forum the following evening.

A camera crew from a local television station visited the campus to interview students on their opinions of Washington's war preparations against Iraq. When they met the campaigners, the crew taped a discussion at the table and ran footage on the evening news.

Militant

September 11 sales in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. The next day, socialists set up a literature table at a campus teach-in on Iraq, encountering keen interest.

Street debates

On September 15 Sachs and Fatland went with supporters to the Mexican Independence Day celebration in Minneapolis where they sold seven *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions and several books. One person who came by the table loudly argued that Saddam Hussein did not defend "Christian values" and had to be eliminated by Washington. He said social problems in the United States were due to the weakening of Christian values.

A number of people gathered around the table to listen to the debate with the candidates. Fatland and Sachs explained that capitalism is the source of the devastation in Latin America and the increasing assaults on the social wage and working conditions in the United States—that these problems working people face come not from fellow workers and farmers but from the ruling rich and their system of exploitation. The candidates said Washington is organizing a war against Iraq, not for a "regime change" but to strengthen U.S. imperialism's domination of the oil resources in the Mideast.

Several workers at the Elastic Corporation of America textile mill where Susan LaMont works in Columbiana, Alabama, have offered their support to her campaign for U.S. Senate and Brian Taylor's campaign for governor. A co-worker bought a *Militant* subscription and a copy of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People.* Two days later he was already halfway through the book and said he wanted to discuss Malcolm X's ideas further. Another worker, who purchased a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial* from socialist campaigners in front of the plant, picked up a subscription after reading the copy.

Young socialists' campus campaigning

Stephanie Taylor reported on the work of Young Socialists for Warshell, Henderson, and Dutrow at the University of Texas in Brownsville. On September 11, U.S. flags were passed out on campus and students were encouraged to wear red, white, and blue. A socialist campaign table—with a sign opposing the imperialist war moves—was wedged between tables for the Criminal Justice Club that was selling patriotic-themed baked goods and U.S. Army recruitment officers in full uniform. Unfazed by their neighbors, the young socialists energetically passed out campaign flyers and sold two copies of the *Militant.* Young socialist campaign tables are set up on campus each week. Beginning September 18, regular meetings will be held for students who are interested in studying revolutionary books and getting involved in other young socialist activities.

Special sales target weeks are set for October 5-13 and on October 26-November 5. Campaigners are urged to map out careful plans for regional sales teams, all-day sales, and other special concentrated efforts to stay on schedule.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Drive Sept. 7–Nov. 17: Week 1

	Militant			PM		Book	
Country	**Goal**	**Sold**	**%**	**Goal**	**Sold**	**Goal**	**Sold**
New Zealand							
Christchurch	**12**	**2**	**17%**	**1**	**0**	**4**	**5**
Auckland	**20**	**3**	**15%**	**1**	**0**	**5**	**2**
N.Z. total	**32**	**5**	**16%**	**2**	**0**	**9**	**7**
Canada							
Toronto	**30**	**4**	**13%**	**5**	**0**	**25**	**1**
Montreal	15	1	7%	10	1	20	3
Vancouver	30	2	7%	5	0	20	0
Canada total	**75**	**7**	**9%**	**20**	**1**	**65**	**4**
Australia	**28**	**2**	**7%**	**6**	**0**	**15**	**0**
Sweden							
Stockholm	**12**	**2**	**17%**	**3**	**2**	**5**	**1**
Gothenburg	15	0	0%	3	0	10	0
Sweden Total	27	2	7%	6	2	15	1
United States							
Tucson	**5**	**4**	**80%**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**0**
Western Colorado	**20**	**10**	**50%**	**10**	**3**	**12**	**7**
Atlanta	**35**	**9**	**26%**	**15**	**0**	**25**	**2**
Brownsville	**8**	**2**	**25%**	**2**		**6**	
Des Moines	**25**	**5**	**20%**	**12**	**1**	**12**	**0**
San Francisco	**30**	**6**	**20%**	**20**	**8**	**20**	**7**
Upper Manhattan	**50**	**9**	**18%**	**35**	**2**	**30**	**9**
Cleveland	**28**	**4**	**14%**	**7**	**2**	**15**	**0**
Houston	**35**	**5**	**14%**	**15**	**0**	**30**	**1**
Detroit	**43**	**5**	**12%**	**12**	**5**	**25**	**0**
Tampa	**25**	**3**	**12%**	**8**	**1**	**12**	**0**
Washington	**30**	**3**	**10%**	**12**	**1**	**25**	**5**
Birmingham	22	2	9%	10	2	12	0
Los Angeles	45	4	9%	30	5	30	1
Twin Cities	55	5	9%	30	1	25	0
Brooklyn	50	4	8%	25	1	40	3
Philadelphia	25	2	8%	10	0	15	0
Newark	55	4	7%	35	3	25	2
Omaha	15	1	7%	23	1	12	0
NY Garment Dist.	65	4	6%	35	4	60	1
Pittsburgh	40	2	5%	4	0	15	3
Chicago	45	2	4%	30	4	25	3
NE Pennsylvania	30	1	3%	7	0	15	1
Boston	28	0	0%	20	4	25	0
Charlotte	20	0	0%	8	0	20	0
Miami	30	0	0%	10	1	25	0
Seattle	40	0	0%	12	1	30	2
U.S. total	**899**	**96**	**11%**	**438**	**51**	**591**	**47**
Iceland	9	0	0%	1		25	0
United Kingdom							
Dundee	10	0	0%	0	0	8	0
London	45	0	0%	15	0	20	0
UK total	55	0	0%	15	0	28	0
Int'l totals	**1125**	**112**	**10%**	**488**	**54**	**748**	**59**
Goal/Should be	**1100**	**110**	**10%**	**500**	**50**	**725**	**73**
	IN THE UNIONS						
	Militant			**PM**		**Book**	
	Goal	**Sold**	**%**	**Goal**	**Sold**	**Goal**	**Sold**
Australia							
AMIEU	4	0	0%	0	0	2	0
Canada							
UFCW	9	0	0%	1	0	8	0
Total	9	0	0%	1	0	8	0
New Zealand							
MWU	**3**	**1**	**33%**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**
NDU	2	0	0%	0	0	1	0
Total	5	1	20%	0	0	2	0
United States				0			
UNITE	50	3	6%	40	1	60	1
UFCW	50	0	0%	65	0	60	0
UMWA	25	0	0%	4	0	13	0
Total raised goal*	125	3	2%	109	1	133	1

Socialist on ballot for Washington mayor

BY JANICE LYNN

WASHINGTON—Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of this city, will be on the ballot in November. His supporters are celebrating this victory by stepping up street campaigning here.

"We are discussing with fellow workers and young people the fact that capitalism has nothing to offer but imperialist war and economic depression, and inviting them to join in campaigning for the socialist alternative," Manuel said.

Campaigners collected more than 6,000 signatures in August, double the city's requirement. By September 9, the last day for disputing nominating petitions, no challenge to the SWP campaign had been filed.

Manuel and his supporters participated in a campaign event at the University of the District of Columbia, and campaigned at the Ames department store, where hundreds of working people had signed petitions for the candidate. Manuel talked to workers who were about to lose their jobs at stores in the area that are going out of business.

Noting that thousands of workers are facing layoffs, Manuel explained how these kinds of assaults on working people are connected to the U.S. war drive through which the billionaire families are trying to shore up their profit rates by conquering more markets and territory.

"The United States is the biggest terrorist," said Omar Martin, a young worker who is Black, as he took a campaign leaflet from Manuel. Martin signed up to stay informed about campaign activities.

The incumbent mayor, Democrat Anthony Williams, had been forced to run a write-in campaign after the election board found him guilty of fraud and forgery in collecting signatures for nominating petitions, denied him a spot on the September 10 Democratic primary ballot, and fined him $277,700.

With election results tabulated two days after the primary, Williams received 75 percent of the votes cast and was declared the winner of the Democratic primary, in which 35 percent of registered Democrats voted.

Days before the primary, Williams, announcing that there was a $325 million deficit in the city budget, said that spending cuts and layoffs were on the table. The 2003 fiscal year begins October 1 and Washington, D.C.'s $5.8 billion budget must be approved by Congress, which will not do so without proposed cuts to balance the budget.

Cutting the school system's budget has been floated by city council leaders and the mayor's office. Other proposed spending cuts project layoffs of city workers as well as reduction of funds for health and human services and transportation.

"We should reject the 'budget deficit' argument used to justify cuts in education, social services, and jobs," declared Manuel. "The Democratic and Republican party officials say we have to 'share the pain.'"

"The Socialist Workers campaign says tax the wealthy, not working people," Manuel explained, "through a sharply graduated income tax that begins above the average income of working families.

"There should be no cuts in funding for schools or social services and no layoffs. Instead, my campaign calls for a massive jobs program at union scale to construct and staff the schools, hospitals, day-care centers, and housing that working people need," Manuel said. "Working people should not have to bear the brunt of the bosses' economic crisis, just as we must oppose their war drive against the peoples of the Mideast."

Manuel explained that workers and farmers need to organize a revolutionary movement to replace the government of the billionaire minority with a workers and farmers government and use political power in the interests of the majority. With such a government, working people could reorganize society based on human needs and solidarity, not the dog-eat-dog values of the capitalist system.

AMIEU-Australasian Meat Industry Employee's Union; MWU-Meat Workers Union; NDU-National Distribution Union; UFCW-United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA-United Mine Workers of America; UNITE-Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees.

Iowa cops' grilling of women violates privacy

BY MARY MARTIN

STORM LAKE, Iowa—Sara Cork, who recently graduated from high school paused for a moment on her job delivering pizzas here to tell the *Militant*, "I don't think the government has any business investigating women. Going to Planned Parenthood is supposed to be private."

Cork spoke for many in this small town in northwestern Iowa, which is at the center of a controversy that has gained national attention involving women's rights and the right to privacy. Following the discovery of an infant's remains in a waste recycling center here May 30, the Buena Vista County attorney and sheriff's office demanded access to women's medical records from area medical facilities and the right to interrogate all women who had positive pregnancy tests between August 2001 and May 2002.

The Planned Parenthood clinic in Storm Lake, which offers medical services including contraception and pregnancy tests, refused to give over its records. A statement released by Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa (PPGI) explained that "turning over confidential medical records would violate medical ethics and state and federal laws protecting the patients' right to privacy.... This case could set a dangerous precedent, if we are forced to turn over medical records. Patients will be even more reluctant to seek medical care, especially those patients who rely on our confidentiality."

The county hospital and two clinics complied, turning over medical records and identities of several women to county sheriff Chuck Eddy. Sheriff's deputies then went to several women's homes, parked their patrol cars in the driveway and interrogated women about their pregnancies.

Alondra Ochoa, 17, was investigated by two cops in her living room. "They told me there was a rumor going around school that I was pregnant [previously]." The cops then asked Ochoa if the infant remains discovered at the recycling center was her baby. After telling them 'no,' the cops swabbed her mouth to get a DNA sample. "It was embarrassing," Ochoa said.

Clay County judge Frank Nelson then ordered Planned Parenthood to turn over its records by August 17. Buena Vista County attorney Phil Havens threatened to bring contempt of court charges against clinic director Jill June if she did not comply. If convicted, June could face up to six months in jail and a $500 fine. Havens disputes Planned Parenthood's argument that pregnancy test records are covered by patient-doctor confidentiality laws, stating that pregnancy tests can be administered by staff technicians who are not physicians.

In a victory for the right of women to keep their medical records confidential, the Iowa Supreme Court on August 6 blocked the lower court's order, which means for now Planned Parenthood does not have to turn over records. On August 30, the court decided to hear Planned Parenthood's appeal of the original court order and accepted as part of the case a statement by an unidentified woman who says her privacy was invaded when another clinic in Storm Lake disclosed her name, address, workplace, and pregnancy record to the sheriff's office. The case will be heard in December.

Storm Lake, like many towns in Iowa, is surrounded by fields of corn and soybeans, and its main industry is meat processing. The IBP pork packing plant and the Sara Lee turkey processing operation employ hundreds of immigrant workers from Mexico and Southeast Asia as well as workers from the Midwest.

Velia Porras, an office worker at IBP, told the *Militant,* "I feel it's a violation of privacy to get names and records from the clinic."

One of two newspapers in Storm Lake, the *Pilot Tribune*, ran a poll in late July in which 84 percent of the residents surveyed said, "The records should not be turned over to the courts and the sheriff's office."

While sentiment among working people in this town runs heavily in support of Planned Parenthood's refusal to turn over records, not everyone agrees. A young worker at the Sara Lee plant who declined to give his name said he thought the files from Planned Parenthood should be turned over to aid the cops' investigation as long as the court officer or sheriff who read them was "trustworthy."

Storm Lake Planned Parenthood Clinic manager Sue Thayer told the *Militant*, "We are still here. We are getting lots of cards and faxes in support of our right not to turn over medical records. Some people say it's a slippery slope we will begin to slide down if Planned Parenthood's medical records can be confiscated. Of course some communications are negative but there are less of them."

In a related development, Dave Leach, an outspoken anti-abortion candidate of the Republican Party for the Iowa House of Representatives, has vowed to show footage of women entering the clinic as part of his public access program "The Uncle Ed Show." Responding to the threat, Mediacom, a public access station, has said it will not allow broadcasts that show such footage.

A panel discussion on the Storm Lake case took place at a Militant Labor Forum in Des Moines, August 16.

Jean Classon, Iowa state president of the National Organization for Women, spoke at the forum. "This case is extremely important," she said. "The right to privacy at the center of this case is also at the heart of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* supreme court decision legalizing abortion in this country. Women's rights and the right to privacy must be protected."

Kevin Dwire, speaking for the Socialist Workers Party, explained that under the guise of the "war on terrorism" the U.S. government is carrying out a war on working people and farmers at home and abroad, which features stepped-up attacks on workers' rights in many forms.

Dwire, a meat packer, who had participated in a fact-finding trip to Storm Lake, described the response of young women, immigrant workers at the packing plants, and others to the assault on women's rights taking place. He further explained, "The fight to defend women's rights is necessary because of centuries of oppression of women since the rise of class society. Defending women's rights is part of unifying our class and building a movement capable of replacing capitalism with a workers and farmers government."

Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa sent a statement on its position and a note of appreciation to the forum organizers for holding the program.

Mary Martin is a sewing machine operator in Des Moines, Iowa. Kevin Dwire in Des Moines also contributed to this article.

Janitors in Boston win support in fight for union contract

Militant

Some 150 janitors and their supporters rallied in downtown Boston September 4 to win support in their contract fight for improved wages, more full-time jobs, and better health benefits. Hundreds of janitors in the New England area who are members of the Service Employees International Union have organized demonstrations and other actions to win broader working-class support, including leafleting temporary employment agencies, urging workers who get hired there not to become scabs in the event of a janitors' strike. "We want to be treated with more dignity and respect," said Alba López.

Black students condemn 'American terrorism'

BY CINDY JAQUITH

STATE COLLEGE, Pennsylvania—"Freedom now more than ever—Confronting American terrorism" was the theme of a conference here at Penn State University (PSU) September 13–15. The event stood in contrast with the many patriotic, pro-government rallies held by the week of September 11.

The three-day conference was initiated by the Black Caucus at PSU. Black student organizations at other colleges responded by sending dozens of participants. They came from the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham College, Temple University, and Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, and Howard University in Washington, D.C. The NAACP Youth Council sent a delegation from New York City.

The high point of the weekend was a march and rally September 14. Some 200 people participated, including the Black students, young people from the Mideast, and women's and gay rights activists.

The first speaker at the rally was Judy Shepard, whose son Matthew was lynched by rightists in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998 because he was gay. She concluded her talk saying that she believed to make social change, "you have to play the game—vote."

Black Caucus leader Assata Richards, who chaired the rally, thanked Shepard for speaking and then noted that she personally did not believe in "playing the game."

"I do not consider myself an American," said Richards. "That right was taken away from me 400 years ago when my people were forced into slavery."

She praised Shepard, however, for being the one nationally-known speaker who was invited and actually showed up. Rally organizers had also invited writers Nikki Giovanni and Amiri Baraka, but neither came. "We thought they would offer leadership on the way forward," explained Richards, "but we now see we have to create our own leadership."

Other speakers included leaders of the Muslim Student Association at PSU, Black Caucus, Sankofa Empowerment, and gay rights activists. The strongest applause came to those speakers who denounced what they termed "terrorism" against Blacks in the United States, from police brutality to discrimination in education, employment, and housing; the U.S. war against Iraq; and the Israeli assault on Palestinians. Workshops at the conference included topics such as "The New Endangered Species: Minority Students," "Rodney King Endures: Police Brutality," and "Ain't I a Woman: Global Sexism."

The conference took place one year after a demonstration and rally the Black Caucus had called in the wake of death threats against its leaders. Nationally known speakers who originally agreed to attend canceled out after September 11. Enormous pressure was put on the Black students to be "patriotic" and abandon their rally. They refused and the rally took place.

Garment workers in Florida protest city attempts to restrict picket lines

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

OAKLAND PARK, Florida—More than 100 garment workers and their supporters rallied on the steps of city hall here August 28 to protest attempts by city authorities to restrict their picket lines in front of the Point Blank Body Armor plant a few blocks away. "Justice, justice!" and "So, so, so, solidarity" chanted the workers in English, Spanish, and Creole.

Some 200 workers have been on strike against Point Blank since August 9. They walked off the job after the third discriminatory firing by the company in response to the workers' fight to win recognition for the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE). Point Blank employs 375 people and is one of the major garment shops in South Florida. It makes bulletproof vests and riot gear sold to the U.S. military and police forces.

Dozens of strikers have been picketing the plant. "On August 18, officials of the city of Oakland Park came and told us we had to take down our tents in front of the plant because our presence 'impedes the flow of water,'" said Sadius Isma at the August 28 rally. Isma was the first worker fired for his union activities.

"We have been speaking to those who cross the picket lines and have won some of them to our struggle," Isma said, "and the company doesn't like that. We have refused to take the tents down and so far the police haven't tried to enforce the city order." The same week, the police prohibited morning picketing at the start of the shift directly in front of the main entrance to the factory, Isma said.

The company has continued production during the strike with those crossing the picket lines and dozens of replacement workers, Isma and other workers pointed out.

"The workers at Point Blank demand our civil rights and our rights as workers," Virginia, one of the strikers, told the rally, to cheers. "We will continue our struggle until we get union recognition despite all the restrictions by the company and the city."

Others who addressed the rally included Loyola Brown, a vice president of UNITE and the union's national director for civil rights, and representatives of the Carpenters Union, Transport Workers Union, Jobs with Justice, and Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

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Campaigning against imperialism and its wars

One year after 9-11, how communists responded to U.S. rulers' stepped-up assaults

One year ago, the U.S. rulers seized on the September 11 attacks to accelerate their drive toward imperialist wars abroad and their attacks on workers' rights at home. In response, socialist workers and youth in the United States deepened their political activity among working people, carrying out a campaign against imperialism and its wars. As part of this effort, the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists sponsored a public meeting in New York on September 30 on the subject, "Communists and the World Struggle against Imperialism Today."

The gathering took place in conjunction with meetings of the SWP National Committee and of the national fractions of socialists active in the United Food and Commercial Workers and the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees.

The main speaker at this public event was SWP national secretary Jack Barnes. Also speaking were Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International* magazine; socialist coal miner Alice Kincaid; Ma'mud Shirvani, Farsi-language editor of Pathfinder Press; Steve Clark, editorial director of Pathfinder; and Young Socialist leader Arrin Hawkins.

Printed below are excerpts from two *Militant* articles reporting on this meeting. They appeared in a special *International Socialist Review* supplement in the October 22, 2001, *Militant*. Readers will find that the main political themes presented at the meeting hold up well in light of the events of the past year. Since the U.S. rulers exhausted the momentum of September 11, they have continued to justify their war drive by targeting an "axis of evil" of Iraq, Iran, and north Korea.

The one-year anniversary of the response by the communist movement to these events will be marked by a public meeting in New York City on September 28 (see front-page ad).

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Militant/Scott Breen

Seattle, September 2001. Throughout the country, communists stepped up their efforts to campaign against imperialism's wars and assaults on workers' rights at home.

BY STEVE CLARK AND PATRICK O'NEILL

NEW YORK—"We are here today as part of organizing a working-class campaign against U.S. imperialism and its war against the peoples of Afghanistan and the region," said Mary-Alice Waters, opening a September 30 meeting at Columbia University here. "It's a war, like other imperialist slaughters before it, that is an extension of the U.S. rulers' accelerated assault on working people at home."

Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and editor of the Marxist magazine *New International*, chaired the event, "Communists and the Fight against Imperialism Today." The response by more than 350 workers, students, and young people—from up and down the East Coast, and from as far away as Tucson, Arizona, St. Paul, Minnesota, Omaha, Nebraska, and Vancouver, British Columbia—was evidence of their determination to deepen that campaign.

"The class struggle doesn't go into remission," Waters said, as the propertied ruling class and their government in Washington exploit the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon to rationalize use of massive U.S. military might to maintain their world domination and continue attacks on workers' wages, job conditions, and democratic rights. To the contrary.

As the meeting convened, Waters said, tens of thousands of state workers in Minnesota were preparing to strike October 1 against employer efforts to reduce medical benefits and maintain wage increases below the rise in the cost of living. She also pointed to the response by members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) who are organizing to expose company responsibility for the September 23 deaths of 13 coal miners in two methane explosions at the Jim Walter No. 5 mine in Brookwood, Alabama. And she called attention to recent protests in Cincinnati, condemning the acquittal after a one-week bench trial of the cop who killed Black youth Timothy Thomas last April.

Communist workers are more deeply involved as part of the rising resistance by a broader vanguard of workers and farmers against capitalist assaults on their living and working conditions, Waters said. SWP members are also teaming up with members of the Young Socialists to reach out to students on college campuses who are attracted to this increase in struggles by working people and can be won to the revolutionary movement.

"The determination by layers of working people to press forward with their strikes and other struggles, to refuse to be cowed by what will be increasing patriotic demagogy that 'now is not the time,'" Waters said, "is at the heart of the fight against imperialism and its wars...."

Patriotic fervor is 'skin deep'

Jack Barnes, the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, was the final speaker at the event. At that time, a week away from the Bush administration launching its bombing of Afghanistan, the patriotism the U.S. rulers and big-business media was trying to whip up was still "skin deep," Barnes said.

To really crank up war fever, the socialist leader said, "the U.S. rulers need the blood of American GIs killed in combat. They need body bags to start being unloaded on tarmacs at U.S. air bases.

"The death of 5,000 civilians at the World Trade Center is not enough," Barnes said. That's "the slaughter of the innocents": something "abhorred, in word, by all three of the desert monotheisms—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Despite the spectacle of 'national mourning' the superrich ruling families have promoted and sucked dry since September 11," he said, "they truly care little or nothing for the lives of civilians.

"It is class-conscious workers and fighters for national liberation who draw a hard-and-fast distinction between the killing of innocent civilians and the deaths of soldiers in combat."

To get a war hysteria rolling the rulers need one of two things, Barnes said. Either the assassination of a top bourgeois figure, or a substantial spilling of the blood of soldiers—such as the sinking of the USS *Maine* in 1898, used by President William McKinley as a pretext to go to war against Spain, the first war of the imperialist epoch, or the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, utilized by the administration of Franklin Roosevelt to advance the U.S. rulers' aim of declaring war against their imperialist rivals in Japan and Germany.

'We' versus 'they'

In the meantime, Barnes said, the U.S. rulers have sought to stir up a patriotic whirlwind of emotionalism and sentimentality to reinforce the illusion that "we Americans" have common interests—whether we're among the hundreds of millions of workers and farmers exploited by a handful of capitalist families in this country; or a member of one of those exploiting families and their hired servants in top echelons of the government, big business, the church, schools, and press.

"This classless 'we,' for example," Barnes said, "embraces both death-row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and Pennsylvania governor Thomas Ridge, who has signed Mumia's death warrant and refused to grant him a new trial." Barnes pointed out that President Bush has named Ridge the new, cabinet-level "czar" of "homeland security."

The U.S. rulers, Barnes said, want working people to ask: "How can 'we' protect ourselves against 'fanatics' around the world? What are 'we' going to do about stopping 'terrorism'?"

But for workers and farmers here or anywhere else, Barnes said, the only "we" is other working people the world over with whom we share common class interests and a common class enemy—first and foremost the capitalist rulers of the United States, the earth's mightiest and most brutal military power, and its most ruthless exploiters.

"From the standpoint of working people," Barnes said, "that ruling class, its twin political parties, and its state and other institutions are not 'we' but 'they.' It's they, the capitalist war-makers, out of whose hands the working class must organize our fellow toilers and those we can win from the middle classes into a revolutionary struggle to take power—or else they will never stop terrorizing humanity."

The imperialist rulers want to hide from workers and farmers the truth explained in the statement released September 11 by the Socialist Workers Party through its candidate for mayor of New York, Martin Koppel. After calling on working people to oppose the U.S. government's war drive and deepening assaults on workers' rights, and explaining that revolutionists reject the use of violence against innocent civilians such as that in New York and Washington, the statement said:

> The U.S. government and its allies for more than a century have carried out systematic terror to defend their class privilege and interests at home and abroad—from the atomic incineration of hundreds of thousands at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the 10-year-long slaughter in Indochina, to the war against the Iraqi people in 1990-91, to the burning to death of 80 people at Waco on its home soil, to other examples too numerous to list. In recent weeks, the White House and Congress have stood behind Tel Aviv as it escalated its campaign of both random killings and outright murders in its historically failing effort to quell the struggle by the dispossessed Palestinian people for the return of their homeland.
>
> Half a century ago the revolutionary workers movement and other opponents of colonial outrages, racism, and anti-Semitism in all its forms warned that by waging a war of terror to drive the Palestinians from their farms, towns, and cities, the founders of the Israeli state and their imperialist backers in North America and Europe were pitting the Jewish people against those fighting for national liberation in the Middle East and worldwide; they were creating a death trap for the Jews, which Israel remains to this day. By its systematic superexploitation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by its never-ending insults to their national and cultural dignity; by its ceaseless murderous violence in countless forms—U.S. imperialism is turning North America into a death trap for working people and all who live here.

"Workers and farmers in the United States have now entered the world," Barnes said.

"For a century the U.S. rulers have largely succeeded in convincing American working people that, at least on home territory, we were exempt from the mass slaughter and misery inflicted worldwide as a result of capitalism's inherent drive toward imperialist domination, fascism, and war. That's the source of the dangers to human civilization in today's world, not 'fanatics' or 'terrorists.' Our class has now joined the rest of toiling humanity."

To politically arm working people

The party's September 11 statement was written for the present, to politically arm class-conscious workers, farmers, and young people to act. Because revolutionaries know that if working people act, if we organize to fight, Barnes said, "we will transform the possibilities before humanity."

That's what communist workers and youth have done in the weeks since September 11, he pointed out. They have taken the campaign against imperialism and its war drive onto the streets in workers' districts; onto the job in plants, mines, and mills; onto the campuses; and to union events and social protests.

As during the opening days and weeks of Washington's war drive against Iraq 10 years earlier, Barnes said, worker-bolsheviks across the United States and around the world were immediately confronted with decisions about what to say and how to conduct themselves on the job. They came under pressure from their employers, and often from some co-workers as well, to observe patriotic moments of silence called for by the Bush administration, to take American flags or yellow ribbons, to attend church services, to join in union-organized blood drives or collections—all organized under the banner of public mourning to mobilize support for the U.S. rulers' chauvinist militarization drive.

Barnes called attention to the example set by communist workers, who held their ground, stuck to their principles, and steadfastly refused to join in these patriotic displays.

In doing so, these workers established where they stood from the outset, won respect from co-workers, and laid the basis for ongoing discussions and political work as the U.S. war and its consequences unfold.

These workers were prepared above all—in their minds, in their habits, and in their gut—by their accumulated experience as disciplined cadres of the communist workers movement. Equipped with that training in proletarian politics, Barnes said, the timeliness, tone, and communist clarity of the Socialist Workers Party's September 11 statement undoubtedly stood them in good stead, as well.

Same policy in peace and war

Returning to the themes that had been struck by Mary-Alice Waters in opening the New York public meeting, Jack Barnes noted in his closing remarks that during an imperialist war, strikes by workers and other actions in which working people oppose the oppression and brutalities of capitalism are the cells of the most fundamental counter to the rulers' patriotic course.

"Communists are not organizing an anti-war campaign," Barnes said. "As the Bolsheviks put it during World War I, we don't have a revolutionary policy in peace time and a peace policy in wartime.

"Instead, in the midst of Washington's war, we are organizing a stepped-up campaign against imperialism, against what Lenin taught us is the final stage of capitalism—the stage we're still in. We keep our eyes focused on the class struggle."

It is in the course of class battles, Barnes said, that the illusion that "we"—the ruling class and working people together—need to

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After 1961 Bay of Pigs defeat, U.S. planned new invasion of Cuba

Top: Bohemia; left: Granma

Left: counterrevolutionary arson attack on El Encanto department store in Havana, April 1961. Above, working people in the city condemn perpetrators of attack. Washington sponsored numerous terror attacks as it stepped up preparations to invade Cuba.

In October 1962, in what is widely known as the Cuban Missile Crisis, Washington pushed the world to the edge of nuclear war. Released on the 40th anniversary of these events, the new Pathfinder book *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba*, by Cuban author Tomás Diez Acosta, tells the story of what really happened.

After Cuban workers and farmers overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship and began a deep-going revolution in 1959, Washington took increasingly aggressive actions to try to overthrow the new revolutionary power. In April 1961, Cuba's revolutionary militias and armed forces crushed a U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

In the spring and summer of 1962, in face of escalating preparations by Washington for a full-scale invasion of Cuba, the Cuban government signed a mutual defense pact with the Soviet Union. In October U.S. president John F. Kennedy was informed U.S. spy planes had discovered Soviet nuclear missiles installed on the island. Using this as a pretext to advance the U.S. moves toward an armed assault, Kennedy demanded removal of the missiles. Washington imposed a naval blockade of Cuba, stepped up preparations for an armed assault, and placed its armed forces on nuclear alert.

In face of the mobilization of Cuban workers and farmers to defend their national sovereignty and revolutionary gains, the U.S. government backed off its invasion plans. Following an exchange of communications between Washington and Moscow, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, without consulting Cuba, announced his decision to remove the missiles on October 28.

With this issue, the *Militant* will begin printing excerpts from *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* over the coming weeks. This week's feature is from the first chapter. Diez Acosta details how, after the U.S. defeat at the Bay of Pigs, Washington accelerated its aggressive moves against the Cuban Revolution, with attempts to assassinate Fidel and Raúl Castro and other covert acts of terror. This was part of the buildup to a planned U.S. invasion that came to a head in October 1962.

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BY TOMÁS DIEZ ACOSTA

The defeat of the mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961 was more than just a military failure for the U.S. government in its covert war against Cuba. It was a sharp political setback for the new Democratic administration and in particular for President John F. Kennedy, who had to publicly assume responsibility.

This setback also led to the dismantling of the whole apparatus created by the Republican administration of Dwight Eisenhower to overthrow the Cuban Revolution. The Kennedy administration then began to develop its own new anti-Cuba plan, in line with its approach to foreign policy and its political and military strategy of "flexible response." Its overall aim was to strengthen the role of the United States as the leader of the capitalist world in its Cold War confrontation with the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc countries.

In addition, the Bay of Pigs fiasco had become a constant concern—almost an obsession—for the Kennedy brothers, who inherited from their father the guiding principle: "Don't get mad. Get even."[1]

For that reason, even before Cuban forces had captured the last mercenaries hiding in the mangroves and salt marshes of the Zapata Swamp, the president of the United States decided to create an Interagency Task Force of the National Security Council (NSC), whose mission was to come up with an immediate follow-up plan for Cuba. This group was initially headed by Paul H. Nitze, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, and consisted of representatives of the State, Defense, and Justice departments, as well as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and U.S. Information Agency (USIA).

At the same time, Kennedy asked Gen. Maxwell Taylor to chair a working committee charged with evaluating the invasion's failure and providing new proposals for U.S. military and political action in situations like that of Cuba. The commission included Attorney General Robert Kennedy, CIA Director Allen Dulles, and Admiral Arleigh Burke, chief of naval operations.

The plans devised by the two groups marked the start of a new tide of aggression against Cuba, aimed at creating generalized unrest inside the country, which would lead to the overthrow of the revolutionary government and, if necessary, direct U.S. military intervention. Such aggression was considered fully justified in their eyes....

Counterrevolutionary groups shattered

At the time of the Bay of Pigs landing, units of the Cuban security forces, acting with popular support, had arrested hundreds of individuals suspected of involvement in the counterrevolution.[2] This prevented the operational groups created for that situation by the CIA from functioning and broke up the actions planned by the fifth columnists. The counterrevolutionary organizations were thus shattered, and the CIA lost contact with most of its agents inside Cuba.

The heads of these groups both inside and outside the country, who had offered to serve as puppets to conceal direct U.S. involvement in the plans against Cuba, felt betrayed. Demoralization spread through their ranks. "The opposition has lost some of its strongest forces, its factionalism is greater, and its confidence in the United States has been shaken,"[3] stated a paper prepared by the CIA to assess the situation at that time.

Taking this reality as its starting point, the Central Intelligence Agency drew up an action program against Cuba, submitted on May 19, 1961. According to C. Tracy Barnes, CIA assistant deputy director for covert action, this plan was a secret appendix to the paper that the Interagency Task Force drafted May 4 for the National Security Council.

In its authors' estimation, the new CIA program was aimed at "weakening the Castro regime." This did not mean that the Agency had renounced its goal of overthrowing the revolution. As the document stated, "This plan should be viewed only as the covert contribution to an overall national program designed to accelerate the moral and physical disintegration of the Castro government and to hasten the day when a combination of actions and circumstances will make possible its replacement."[4]

The objective for that period was to achieve the reorganization of the forces within Cuba—agent and saboteur networks, armed bands, and others—so as to create conditions that would make possible more decisive actions. For this reason, the program was limited to exploiting the so-called "economic, political and psychological vulnerabilities"[5] of the country, in order to create favorable conditions for new, longer-range plans. The CIA did not expect the internal situation to change over the next six months.

The first task of the CIA officials responsible for operations in Cuba was to reorganize clandestine activity inside the country. To do so, they sought more accurate data on the strength of the counterrevolutionary groups and their networks of agents. The directors of the "Cuba Project" hoped to use this information to relaunch and, if possible, step up subversive actions.

Many of these officials wanted to get quick revenge for the defeat they had suffered by carrying out operations that would bring immediate results, results going beyond the objectives approved for the program. One of their goals was to show President Kennedy that their estimates of the internal support that the invaders would receive had been correct and, at the same time, to force him into direct military action against Cuba. Thus was born one of the most dangerous operations organized by the CIA, which was given the code name Patty.[6]

The CIA's 'Operation Patty'

This project called for actions throughout Cuban territory intended to spark a general uprising. The date chosen to begin the uprising was July 26, 1961, in order to take advantage of the celebrations organized across the country—particularly in Havana and Santiago de Cuba, where Fidel and Raúl Castro, respectively, were targeted for assassination.

The plan in Santiago was to occupy one of the houses next to the stadium, as close as possible to the platform from which Commander Raúl Castro was to speak. A .30-caliber machine gun was to be set up in the house to carry out the assassination. Four men armed with grenades were to cover the retreat. In the event that this action failed, the conspirators assumed that Raúl would immediately travel to Havana to report what had happened, and so they planned to set an ambush on the road to the airport, using six men armed with submachine guns.

The assassination of Raúl was to be synchronized with a mortar attack on the "Hermanos Díaz" oil refinery in Santiago de Cuba. The plan included carrying out, at the same time, an attack seemingly directed against themselves—an assault on the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo. To carry out this action, they were to station a group of men on the "El Cuero" farm—next to the U.S. enclave—where they would deploy seven mortars. Six of these were to fire thirty projectiles at the naval base, and the other was to fire on a Cuban military camp located nearby. This action was meant to provoke a confrontation, as both forces would consider themselves under attack.

The CIA was to prepare a story on these events, saying that "Cuban military commanders, blinded by the assassination that had taken the life of Raúl Castro, had gone to the extreme of attacking the naval base." This would provide the pretext the United States was seeking for direct military intervention. It must be borne in mind that the CIA had included in its plans for the Bay of Pigs invasion a similar provocation, which was to be carried out by a group of mercenaries commanded by the traitor Higinio Díaz. He did not dare to land, however.[7]

The authors of this plan also proposed to undertake the assassination of Prime

Continued on Page 8

[1] Dino A. Brugioni, *Eyeball to Eyeball: The Inside Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis* (New York: Random House, 1990, 1991), p. 69.

[2] Most of the people arrested were soon released. Many individuals active in counterrevolutionary organizations were able to escape revolutionary justice. Faced with the Bay of Pigs debacle, the majority chose to leave the country; others continued their underground activities. See Jesús Arboleya, *La contrarrevolución cubana* [The Cuban counterrevolution] (Havana: Editorial Ciencias Sociales, 1997), pp. 95–104.

[3] "Program of Covert Action Aimed at Weakening the Castro Regime. Washington, May 19, 1961," *FRUS*, vol. X, p. 555.

[4] Ibid., p. 556.

[5] Ibid.

[6] See *Playa Girón: La gran conjura* [Playa Girón: the great plot] (Havana: Editorial Capitán San Luis, 1991), pp. 25–30; and Fabián Escalante Font, *Cuba: La guerra secreta de la CIA, 1959–1962* [Cuba, the CIA's secret war, 1959–1962] (Havana: Editorial Capitán San Luis, 1993), pp. 110–19.

[7] Among the factors cited in the May 4 Interagency Task Force report as justification for direct military intervention was point (j), which read: "A major and serious Cuban military effort to force the United States out of the Guantánamo base."

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By Tomás Diez Acosta

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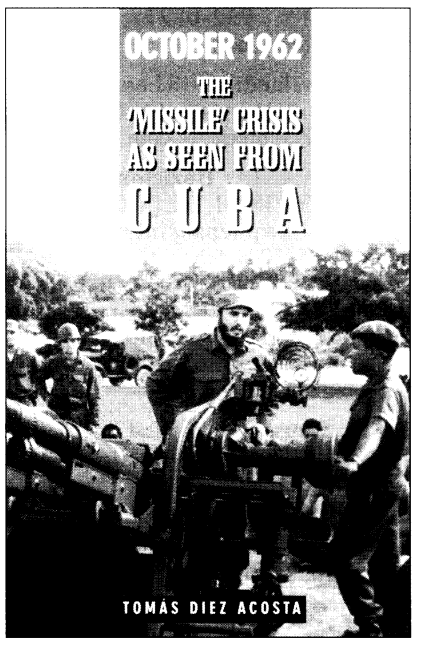

Fighting imperialism

Continued from Page 6

"equally" sacrifice for the war effort is challenged in practice by the actual experience of growing numbers. Workers who go on strike or stay the course in some social or political struggle, despite the pressures of imperialist war, are refusing to sacrifice their rights, wages, union organization, or life or limb to the needs of the capitalist exploiters, Barnes said.

For communist workers, Barnes concluded, it is both possible and necessary to turn more deeply toward the resistance of working people in the United States in response to the imperialist war against Afghanistan. At the same time, a new generation can be won to the Young Socialists and the communist movement if revolutionary workers collaborate with YS members to go out to college campuses and elsewhere to meet young people repelled by the course of the imperialists and who can be attracted to the working class and revolutionary struggle.

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In his remarks to the meeting, Clark responded to the assertion trumpeted by much of the big-business press, and echoed by many middle-class radicals, that Washington's post-September 11 militarization drive registered a fundamental policy shift.

"This is simply false," Clark said. "The U.S. rulers are taking the opportunity to put into play the course they have been preparing for, step by step, for some 15 years. With ongoing tactical differences over how far and how fast to move, the Congress, Clinton, and Bush the elder and younger have been pressing along this bipartisan course ever since the deepening crisis of the world capitalist order signaled by the 1987 stock market crash and collapse of the Stalinist regimes across Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union a few years later.

"With the collapse of those regimes," Clark said, "also came the collapse of the capitalist rulers' hopes that they could defeat the toilers of the world through a 'cold war.' But accomplishing that goal will take gigantic class battles and a 'hot war'—a coming conflict in which the toilers, with revolutionary leadership, can triumph."

The war against Afghanistan, Clark said, "is not some 'turn' in U.S. policy, but another step—and a new opportunity for the rulers—to try to recoup some of what they failed to accomplish in advancing imperialist interests during the bloody 1990–91 war against Iraq."

Similarly, the rulers' accelerated assault on political rights in the United States does not involve primarily new legislation or executive orders, but "the implementation of what was put in place over the previous eight years by the Clinton administration and Congress." Clark pointed to the reinforcement of a so-called homeland defense command structure; the use against immigrants of "secret evidence," "preventive detention," and curtailment of review and appeal rights under the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act; the bolstering of commando and SWAT-style squads on the federal, state, and local levels; the establishment of a White House "counterintelligence czar"; and other such measures.

"They've had all this ready for use for several years, in anticipation of the rise in struggles by workers and farmers they know is coming in the United States," Clark said. "Now they have the pretext to ratchet up the pace."

Militant/Alice Kincaid; Inset: Militant/Valerie Libby

Miners gather for Sept. 27, 2001, memorial march for 13 coal miners killed in methane explosion in Alabama. Inset, April 2001 protest against killing of Black youth by Cincinnati cops. "The determination by layers of working people to press forward with their strikes and other struggles is at the heart of the fight against imperialism and its wars," said Mary-Alice Waters at September 30 meeting.

Even the layoffs of airline employees and other workers the bosses are blaming on "terrorism" were largely planned well beforehand, as profits were being squeezed by overcapacity and increasingly volatile world competition, and as capitalism headed into its first worldwide recession since 1990–91. "The employers just seized the opportunity to wave the bloody flag against workers and unionists who stood up to defend the rights and livelihoods of working people," Clark said.

None of this would come as a surprise to anyone who's had a chance to read and think about some of the books and magazines referred to by Waters at the opening of the meeting, Clark said. He pointed to several others, including "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War" in issue no. 11 of *New International* magazine, and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes, published earlier this year.

Working people and youth in the United States who want to combat the social evils we see accelerating all around us, Clark said, need to look for revolutionary solutions and reach out to the struggles of workers and farmers the world over. The impoverishment and lack of industrial development in the countries where the great majority of humanity lives, and the vast inequities in social and cultural conditions, are the product neither of "conspiracies" nor "chaos," Clark said. "They are the inevitable result of how capitalism works, not how it doesn't work."

When the leaders of the victorious Bolshevik revolution in Russia launched the Communist International some 80 years ago, its statutes said it was breaking "once and for all with the traditions" of most previous organizations that claimed to be socialist "which, in reality, only recognized the white race." In the new communist world movement, it said, "are fraternally united people of all colors—white, yellow, and black—the toilers of the entire world."

Clark welcomed those at the meeting to join with the Socialist Workers Party, the Young Socialists, and their supporters in the ongoing effort to build such an international movement.

After Bay of Pigs

Continued from Page 7

Minister Fidel Castro during a mass rally to be held that day at the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana. For this action an 82-mm. mortar was to be hidden at a spot near the platform and fired, in an attempt to kill as many as possible of the revolutionary leaders gathered there.

At the same time, armed bands in Las Villas province (now Villa Clara) and Camagüey province were to carry out assassinations and attacks on public facilities, blow up bridges, and so on. These plans also included the possible elimination of key political leaders and civilian and military officials, so that within a few hours of the start of Operation Patty, chaos would reign across the nation.

The CIA was kept abreast of the progress of preparations by its agents in Cuba. In the final days of June, the agency approved the operation and provided precise instructions to the plotters with regard to the provisioning of arms and military supplies to all the groups operating in the country.

Cuban security forces were kept informed of the conspiracy's development by their agents who had infiltrated the ranks of the enemy. In mid-July, when the strands of this deadly operation's complex web were fully in place, Cuban authorities decided to put an end to it, placing the main plotters under arrest.

This action brought in a large haul of weapons, explosives, and war matériel. A month later, on August 12, 1961, the Cuban government publicly denounced the new conspiracy.[8]

Despite the setback suffered by Operation Patty, CIA officials assigned to the Cuba project prepared new subversive actions. In late July 1961, two new programs were outlined at the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The first was a covert program against Cuba; the second, a program of clandestine activity within the country. Both were discussed by the Cuba Task Force, chaired by Richard Goodwin, and also by the Special Group of the National Security Council.

According to Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., special assistant to the president, the covert action program was to be the key element in overall U.S. policy toward Cuba. It received backing at the highest level, and a multimillion-dollar budget was approved. This program included intelligence and counterintelligence, political action, propaganda, and paramilitary activities.

The clandestine action plan was not essentially different from the covert program. It aimed to reorient the CIA's work toward better supervision and control of counterrevolutionary organizations in Cuba. Increased support was to be provided to groups that showed more promise in carrying out clandestine actions. President Kennedy approved these two programs in early August.

[8] See *Noticias de Hoy*, Havana, August 12, 1961, second edition, pp. 1, 5–8.

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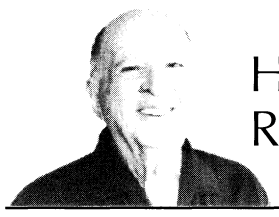
— GREAT SOCIETY

A dream-like haven—"Sidney, Australia—Shahid Qureshi paid a big price when he sought asylum in Australia. For six months, the 27-



Harry Ring

year-old Pakistani was locked up at a detention center in Melbourne. He slept on an old mattress in a small room with three other men. The entrance to the room had no door and guards came in frequently during the night to shine a flashlight in his face.... As many as 70 detainees shared three showers and four toilets.

When Qureshi was released on a temporary visa, the Australian government presented him with a bill for his stay: $14,250. "Making matters worse, the terms of his visa prohibit him from working in Australia."—*Los Angeles Times*.

Check out these numbers—In 1980, there were 143,000 Black men in jails and prisons and 463,700 in colleges and universities. By the year 2000, there were more Blacks in jail than on campuses: 791,600 behind bars and 603,032 attending colleges or universities. That's according to the Justice Policy Institute as reported by the *New York Times*.

Also, between meals?—"Companies stretch time between pay raises."—News headline.

'Reality 101'—Mohammad Sayed and Omar Zazia are émigrés from Afghanistan and U.S. citizens who have filed a federal damage suit against an Orange County, California, movie chain. They and two friends were ejected from one of the movies because they looked "suspicious" and spoke in a foreign tongue.

Almost a stereotype—Former Enron exec Michael Kopper, who illegally pocketed $12 million, will return the bundle and is expected to testify for the prosecution. A former college classmate offered a thumbnail sketch that seemed to fit the pattern. "Very motivated by money," she said, "Always kind of knew how to get ahead without doing much work."

Better, try some coal miners—Q: What are the rights of working people to say no to a hazardous situation?

A: The right not to get hurt or die doesn't mean an employee can simply walk off the job when danger lurks. The employee must make efforts to give the employer a chance to correct the condition.... Although it looks as though the material was written by a life form on a distant planet, the Occupational Health & Safety Administration is the place to go to read about your safeguards for dangerous jobs.—Des Moines Iowa *Register*.

Free-market flying—At Chicago's O'Hare airport, more than 85 percent of the flights are those of American and United airlines.

At their tender mercy—"Geron Corp. won a U.S. patent for technology to develop immune-system-based cancer therapies, news that sent the technology company's stock up 15 percent."—Bloomberg business news service.

Sure. With a clean system—"Denver, Colorado—Too few textbooks. Too little advice on applying for college. Internships that never materialized, classes that were never offered. Those are just some of the complaints a group of Denver students have about a reform effort at the former Manual High. Under the reform, the 1,100-student school was divided into three academies. The idea was to embrace research that shows that students learn better in smaller, more intimate settings. But in the report, Struggling to Succeed, a group of young organizers...said the division of Manual into three schools reinforced racial and ethnic differences without delivering on promises."—*Rocky Mountain News*.

Colorado students back Palestinian's right to speak

BY JACK PARKER

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—A well-publicized and financed effort by opponents of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, including the involvement of Gov. William Owens, was unable to deter students from hearing Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian spokesperson, from speaking at Colorado College in Colorado Springs on September 12 and at the University of Colorado in Boulder two days later.

Overflow crowds attended both meetings. At Colorado College's Armstrong Hall, 800 people repeatedly interrupted Ashrawi's talk with applause while another 1,500 listened as her lecture was piped into Shove Hall and onto the campus commons. More than 2,000 students and community members heard her speak in Boulder. They filled Glenn Miller Auditorium and sat on the grass outside of the building while loudspeakers played her speech.

"Because of a concerted effort to distort my views," Ashrawi said at Colorado College, "I will begin with a personal statement. I have been repeatedly beaten up, shot at, interrogated, imprisoned. My daughter's childhood has been destroyed. I have recently lived for weeks at a time as a prisoner in my own house. Yet despite having lived under the worst horrors of captivity, I have never accepted any kind of revenge."

"Without self-determination for the Palestinian people there will be no resolution to the fighting in Israel," Ashrawi emphasized.

Much of Ashrawi's speech centered on her views that strengthening the World Court in the Hague and implementing international law are necessary to resolve the conflict in Palestine.

Calling Ashrawi an "apologist for terrorism," Rabbi Bruce Dollin, president of the Rocky Mountain Rabbinical Council, called on Colorado College president Richard Celeste—the former governor of Ohio—to resign for organizing the meeting.

Governor Owens criticized Colorado University, a state-funded university, for using student fees to pay Ashrawi's $8,000 honorarium. "I regard [them] as state funds," he said.

Dollin predicted that hundreds or thousands would protest Ashrawi, who had been invited to Colorado College as the keynote speaker at a symposium on the worldwide effects of the September 11 attacks. The invitation, Dollin said, showed "gross insensitivity to our community, our nation, and to the victims of this unspeakable crime."

A coalition protesting Ashrawi's visit provided a bus trip and meal for Denver residents to the Colorado Springs event; but, on the day of the meeting, only a few hundred protesters showed up. They were almost matched by demonstrators supporting Ashrawi's right to speak. The latter were led by Palestinian students from local campuses, and included the Denver-based Coloradans for Mid East Peace and the Coalition for Justice in Palestine from Boulder, who organized a picket that drew 150 people.

Some 20 anti-Ashrawi protesters came to the Boulder meeting. More than 100 people defending Ashrawi attended, some carrying Palestinian flags and signs that said "Occupation is Terrorism," "Let Her Speak," and "Listen, You Might Learn Something." Among them were supporters of Jason Alessio, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Colorado's Third District.

Militant/Jack Parker

Participants listen to Palestinian leader Hanan Ashrawi address meeting at Colorado College.

$105,000 Pathfinder Fund

	Goal	Paid	%
Tucson	**150**	**100**	**67%**
Charlotte	**3,500**	**1,100**	**31%**
Philadelphia	**5,000**	**1,427**	**29%**
NY Garment District	**5,000**	**1,195**	**24%**
San Francisco	8,500	1,350	16%
Western Colorado	2,600	375	14%
Pittsburgh	4,200	400	10%
Newark	3,600	323	9%
Omaha	900	75	8%
Des Moines	1,200	75	6%
Boston	3,500	200	6%
Miami	2,100	120	6%
Brooklyn	3,200	175	5%
Washington DC	3,000	150	5%
Birmingham	3,100	100	3%
Upper Manhattan	3,600	110	3%
Houston	4,500	115	3%
Northeast PA	1,200	15	1%
Atlanta	4,250	50	1%
Tampa	2,000	20	1%
Detroit	3,000	20	1%
Chicago	5,500	25	0%
Los Angeles	9,500	10	0%
Cleveland	1,500	0	0%
Seattle	7,500	0	0%
Twin Cities	5,000	0	0%
Other		634	
U.S. total	97,100	8,164	8%
Sweden	1,400	100	7%
New Zealand	1,200	40	3%
Australia	1,300	0	0%
Canada	4,500	0	0%
Iceland	150	0	0%
United Kingdom	1,200	0	0%
International total	**106,850**	**8,304**	**8%**
Int'l goal/should be	**105,000**	**18,900**	**18%**

New book gives impetus to Pathfinder Fund

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The release of Pathfinder's newest book, *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tomás Diez Acosta, is a powerful new weapon for campaigning against imperialism, and gives a potential impetus to the Pathfinder Fund. The book will hit stores and literature tables just as conferences, newspaper articles, and discussions begin around the 40th anniversary of the 1962 events.

Pathfinder editorial director Steve Clark spoke about the lessons contained in the new book at a September 13 meeting in New York's Garment District. He encouraged those present to use the book on the missile crisis to explain the facts about Washington's wars, and how Cuban workers and farmers stood up fearlessly to U.S. imperialism's threats and invasion plans.

The connection between the 1962 missile crisis and today's U.S. war moves against Iraq was drawn by *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof, Clark pointed out. In a September 16 column entitled "The Guns of September," Kristof wrote that while Kennedy considered a military invasion, he changed his mind "after considering the innocent civilians who would be killed, considering the international law that would be broken."

In fact, "it was the determination of the workers and farmers of Cuba to defend their revolution, to defend their sovereignty arms in hand that stood down U.S. imperialism," Clark explained.

Kennedy was prepared to launch the invasion, Clark said. "At that point the Kennedy administration asked the Pentagon what kind of casualties the American forces would suffer. The answer was 18,000 in the first 10 days, and 4,000 in the first day alone. So they made the decision not to invade."

A collection taken after Clark spoke brought in $765, and two people made new pledges totaling $650.

Weekly payments crucial

With all cities reporting, the international total of Pathfinder Fund goals now stands at $106,850, more than the $105,000 goal. Two weeks into the drive, however, $8,304, or 8 percent, has been collected, but we should be at 18 percent.

The challenge for Pathfinder Fund campaigners is to begin to organize, not only pledges, but regular weekly payments from contributors, while at the same time seeking out new financial supporters for Pathfinder's revolutionary publishing program.

The new edition of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, being produced for the first time in Spanish as well as English, will be ready soon. It contains a new preface, a new cover, the full text—available for the first time—of Malcolm's Oxford Union talk, and the article "Two Interviews" by Jack Barnes.

Issue no. 12 of the Marxist magazine *New International*, containing materials from this year's Socialist Workers Party convention on perspectives for building the world communist movement, will be available this fall.

Along with these books, Pathfinder will prepare six other books and a steady stream of newly digitized titles and other reprints. For example, *Maurice Bishop Speaks* is now back in stock.

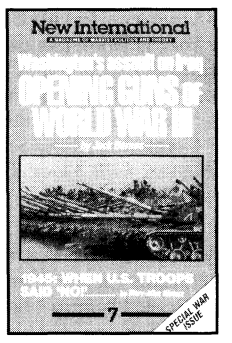
Substantial funds are needed *now* to maintain this ambitious level of book production. Supporters in cities and towns around the world need to map out a plan to call everyone who has made a pledge and encourage them to make regular payments on their commitments. This need not wait for fund-raising meetings, but rather is an important part of building these meetings beforehand. An average of $9,500 must be paid and sent in every week—both to meet Pathfinder's expenses and to reach the fund goal.

Contributions to the fund can be sent to the *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014, with checks made out to Pathfinder.

FROM PATHFINDER

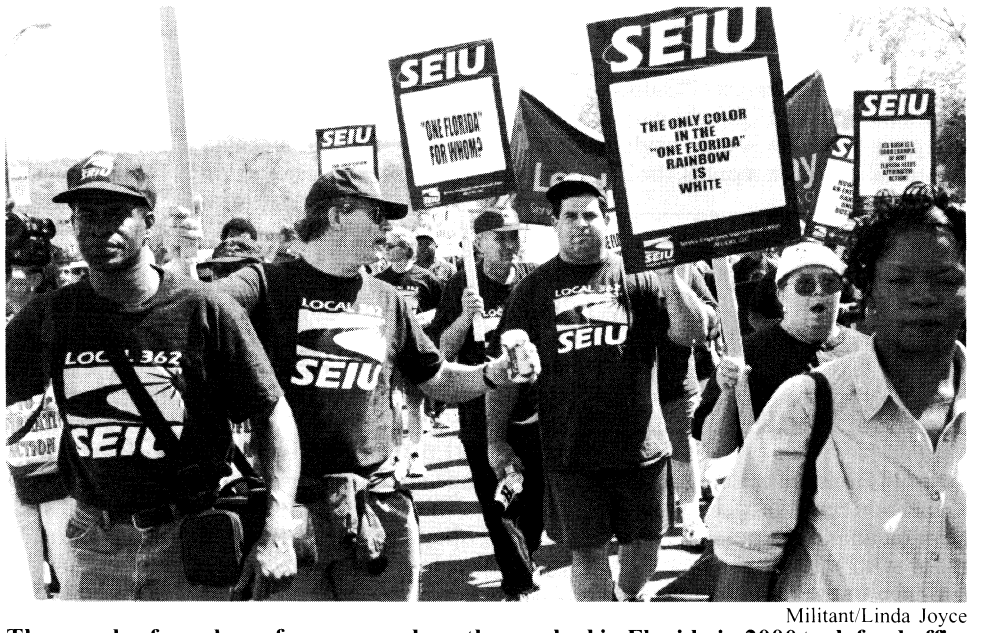
***New International* no. 7**

- **Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq** *by Jack Barnes*
- **Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime** *by Mary-Alice Waters*
- **Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War** *by Samad Sharif* $12.00



AVAILABLE FROM BOOKSTORES, INCLUDING THOSE ON PAGE 8, OR ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

Affirmative action builds class solidarity



Militant/Linda Joyce

Thousands of workers, farmers, and youth marched in Florida in 2000 to defend affirmative action programs in public university admissions and state contracts.

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In face of the unfolding economic depression and the employers' attacks on the living standards and rights of working people, defending affirmative action is a central demand of class-conscious workers. The Socialist Workers candidates call for defending and expanding affirmative action—enforced by quotas—in employment, housing, and education.

Affirmative action programs in employment are designed to force bosses to hire a certain proportion of workers who are Black, members of other oppressed nationalities, or women, in order to break through discriminatory employment practices and broader conditions in capitalist society that perpetuate discrimination. Affirmative action struggles have also been waged around job promotions, school admissions, and decent housing.

Class solidarity

This demand is key to charting a course to build class solidarity. Together with the fight to ensure jobs for all by reducing the workweek with no cut in pay, it counters the divisions used by the capitalist rulers to weaken workers and farmers. Another important demand that has an affirmative action character is raising the minimum wage, which also strengthens the entire working class.

Defending affirmative action takes on added importance at a time of growing economic crisis. More than 1 million jobs were slashed in last year's recession. A September 6 Bureau of Labor Statistics report showed that the jobless rate among Blacks was 10.7 percent in the second quarter of 2002, more than double that of whites at 5.2 percent. The jobless rate for Latinos was 7.5 percent.

Some 36.7 percent of the Black nationality lived below the official poverty line as of 1998—nearly double the national average of 18.9 percent and more than twice the rate of 15.1 percent for whites.

Government statistics in 1998 showed workers who are female earning 76 percent of the income of workers who are male.

These facts underscore the reality that despite gains in affirmative action, the systematic discrimination in hiring and firing of women, Blacks, Chicanos, and other oppressed nationalities continues and remains an integral part of capitalist rule.

Meanwhile, assaults on affirmative action continue. Since 1995, when the University of California regents ended affirmative action in hiring and admissions, federal courts have banned such plans at schools in Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Lawsuits challenging affirmative action involving public housing in Yonkers, New York, and the admissions policy at the University of Michigan Law School are winding their way toward decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court.

These attacks have sparked resistance. Unions and the NAACP sponsored a march by thousands of people in Tallahassee, Florida, in March 2000 to protest an executive order by Gov. John Ellis Bush the previous year eliminating affirmative action programs in college admissions in Florida's 10 public universities and in state contracts.

Opponents of affirmative action argue falsely that affirmative action is "reverse discrimination." In a September 4 column, conservative writer Thomas Sowell claimed it meant "lowering the standards" to "get an acceptable racial body count." John O'Sullivan, an editor of the right-wing magazine *National Review,* asserted in an opinion piece earlier this year that affirmative action imposes "heavier and more visible costs" on white males "in terms of lost jobs, promotions denied, and college places taken by others."

Liberal politicians often argue against quotas while giving lip service to affirmative action. Former president William Clinton has often repeated his position on affirmative action as "mend it, don't end it," and "end abuses, prohibit quotas, subject affirmative action to strict review."

Affirmative action is not charity to make up for past wrongs—it's about fighting inequality and discrimination today. Nor is it a morally correct stance that causes material disadvantages for males and whites. It's the capitalist bosses who seek to perpetuate divisions among working people through discrimination against women, Blacks, and other oppressed nationalities. They profit from paying them less.

Affirmative action is a class question, one that is in the interests of all working people.

The gains in affirmative action developed out of the titanic civil rights battles in 1950s and '60s that overturned the Jim Crow system of legal segregation. Those struggles forced Pres. Lyndon Johnson to sign the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which includes Title II barring racial discrimination in "public accommodations," and Title VII, prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, or national origin. In 1965 Johnson signed Executive Order 11246, which banned discrimination in federal employment and hiring by federal contractors.

Those laws codified what was won on the ground through mass actions, and provided the legal basis for affirmative action drives led by oppressed nationalities and women. Thousands of lawsuits were filed to break down hiring barriers. Women continued to fight their way into basic industry, which meant higher wages and greater unionization.

In 1974 the employers in the basic steel industry signed a court-ordered consent decree to establish plant-wide seniority. That meant workers hired into departments with the worst pay and job conditions could bid into jobs in other departments without losing seniority. The agreement also set hiring goals for women and skilled craft apprenticeship goals for women, Blacks and Latinos.

Kaiser Aluminum Corporation signed a contract with the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) in 1974 that included a training program for craft jobs stipulating that one minority or female worker be hired for every white male admitted. Until then the company had only hired workers with prior craft experience. Blacks had long been excluded from those types of jobs. For example, although they made up about 39 percent of the workforce in Gramercy, Louisiana, they held only five of the 273 crafts jobs—less than 2 percent—at the Kaiser plant there.

In 1974 Brian Weber, a lab technician at the Gramercy plant, filed a lawsuit to overturn the affirmative action plan, claiming that it was "reverse discrimination" against him and other white males.

After a 1976 trial a U.S. district court ruled in favor of Weber, and the Kaiser bosses ended the training program for all workers. The Steelworkers and other major unions as well as the AFL-CIO put their weight behind the battle to overturn the *Weber* decision, which led to the Supreme Court overturning the ruling in 1979.

Dual seniority lists

The defeat of the *Weber* challenge strengthened the USWA and marked a big victory for working people. But the establishment of plant-wide seniority by the consent decree did not address discrimination in layoffs. During economic downturns affirmative action gains can be wiped out as women, Blacks, and Latinos often become the "last hired, first fired."

Dual seniority lists—one for Blacks, Latinos, and women, another for other workers—are necessary to minimize the consequences of mass layoffs. In the early 1970s a district court ordered Continental Can Co. to draw up two seniority lists so that any layoffs would preserve an agreed-on minimal proportion of Black workers. Recalls were made on a one-to-one basis until all Black workers had returned to work. The court also ordered the company to adopt an affirmative action employment plan after all workers had been recalled. An appeals court overturned the ruling in 1975.

Affirmative action is toothless without quotas. Government statistics reveal how the lawful workings of capitalism reinforce racist discrimination and resulting inequality in jobs, housing, and education. Mandatory quotas in hiring, education, and housing have proven necessary to combat pervasive discrimination and help guarantee opportunities for women and oppressed nationalities.

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics by Jack Barnes is one place where readers will find an effective explanation of why affirmative action is a vital question for working people as a whole.

Long-term unemployment rises in U.S.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Labor Department statistics for August show 5.7 percent of the workforce, or 8.1 million workers, are unemployed in the United States. The actual numbers are much higher since government figures do not include workers who have given up trying to find work altogether.

Long-term unemployment is on the rise, breaking the pattern of past decades. One reason for this is the fact that far fewer women drop out of the workforce than in previous years.

The latest figures also continue to register higher levels of unemployment for Blacks (9.6 percent) and Latinos (7.5 percent) than for whites (5.1 percent). While last month's unemployment figure is down from the eight-year high of 6 percent reached in April, it's still close to 50 percent higher than two years ago, and likely to rise.

Some capitalist economists who expected the figure to be higher as a result of the weakest job growth in a decade were caught off guard. Steven Wieting, a senior economist at Solomon Smith Barney, tried to put a positive spin on it. "For financial markets that were fearing a real deterioration, this is good news," he said. "A choppy, gradual and modest recovery seems most likely."

Others were less sanguine. A recent article in the *Financial Times* entitled, "Despondent workers depress unemployment rate," pointed to the fact that the number of unemployed workers no longer actively seeking work has grown at the fastest pace in any 12-month period since record keeping on the trend began in the mid-1970s. Rory Robertson, a bond market strategist for wealthy investors who works for the Australia-based Macquarie Bank, takes this trend as a sign of weakness. "Employment growth is jumping over a very low bar to stop the unemployment rate from rising," Robertson said. "That is hardly a sign of U.S. economic strength. Strong economies produce strong jobs growth. The U.S. clearly remains very weak."

As if confirming such an assessment, jobless claims jumped by 19,000 to 426,000 in the first week of September.

Long-term joblessness—defined by the U.S. Department of Labor as being without a job for 15 weeks or more—has increased by 50 percent in the past year, reaching 2.8 million in August.

The average length of unemployment was 16.2 weeks in August. When the jobless rate hovered around 6 percent in the 1970s and '80s, as it has recently, the average stint of unemployment was substantially lower—10 to 12 weeks.

Far more women than previously are responding to layoffs by continuing the search for a job as opposed to dropping out of the job force entirely, as many did in the past. A National Bureau of Economic Research study in 2001 by Katharine Abraham and Robert Shimer attribute the change to the greater "attachment to the labor force" of women workers. That is, a growing number of women must work to survive and are no longer willing to accept being relegated to second-class status.

This trend is linked to deep-going changes in the family structure in the last decades, with only half of households headed by married couples, and a rising rate of children—nearly one-third—born to unmarried women. Divorce rates are also much higher. At the same time, women have been targets of the attack on the social wage carried out by both the Democratic and Republican parties over the past decade, which resulted in nearly 50 percent of welfare recipients being driven off the rolls between 1993 and 1998.

More claims for disability being filed

In a related development, government figures show that 5.42 million workers are receiving disability benefits, up from 3 million in 1990, with the average age of people on disability down from previous years.

The rise in disability claims has provoked a discussion in the capitalist media. Some corporate and government officials accuse workers of trying to cheat the system. "When you are a person who has lost a job, and you can't find another and you are home sitting on the couch, you become preoccupied with ailments that do qualify in many cases as legal disability but while you were working did not come into your mind," stated Cleveland disability claims judge Morley White.

According to a September 2 *New York Times* article entitled "Laid-off workers swelling the cost of disability pay," research by a number of economists, "indicates that the numbers signal instead a reliance on disability benefits by low-end workers who had ignored their ailments as long as their limited skills brought them steady employment." Some 40 percent of workers on disability had to appeal earlier denials in order to receive benefits.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Legacy of Malcolm X and the Fight Against Imperialist War. Speakers: Dean Hammond, Socialist Workers Party, and Richard Bey, Coordinator, Quest Community Vibrations youth radio show. Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Donation: $5. Tel: (973) 481-0077

NEW YORK

Garment District

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution. Special forum for "New York is Book Country" book fair drawing on Pathfinder's *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes. Speaker: James Harris, member of Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. *545 8th Avenue, 14th Floor. Donation: $5. Tel: (212) 695-7358.*

Upper Manhattan

The October 1962 'Missile' Crisis and the Struggle against Imperialism Today. Special forum for "New York is Book Country" book fair. Socialist Workers Party National Committee member Joel Britton will discuss the lessons contained in Pathfinder's new title, *The October 1962 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tomás Diez Acosta. Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. *599 W. 187th Street, 2nd Floor. Donation: $5. Tel: (212) 740-4611.*

No such thing as 'we Americans'

The war that Washington is steadily moving toward in the Mideast is not about Saddam Hussein. It is about U.S. imperialism taking over Iraq and gaining supremacy over the vast oil and natural gas reserves throughout the region.

As in every previous imperialist conflict, the U.S. rulers today are driven toward more wars in order to conquer markets and territories, and to restore the declining rates of profit of their capitalist system.

The fundamental argument that the billionaire families of the U.S. ruling class—the owners of Exxon, J.P. Morgan Chase, and other giant corporations—use to draw working people and others behind their wars is that "we Americans" face common problems. But that "we" is a lie.

Capitalist politicians argue that "our" oil supply is at stake in the Mideast and that taking over Iraq—or even Saudi Arabia—will protect "our country" from being cut off and economic disaster. They try to suck working people and the middle class into the view that "we" may be attacked by "them" with "weapons of mass destruction."

But the real "we" are working people around the world. Workers and farmers from Iraq to Mexico to France to the United States have everything in common. And we have nothing in common with *them*—the capitalists who rule the United States, who profit by exploiting our labor power and plundering the peoples of the world. It's not *our* government. It's *their* government, *their* army, *their* corporations. Likewise, a U.S. war of conquest in the Mideast is an assault on us, on fellow working people there.

As Malcolm X, the outstanding revolutionary leader, so clearly stated on behalf of millions, "I am not an American, I am a victim of Americanism."

The trade union officialdom promotes the reactionary trap of American patriotism, as it did at this year's Labor Day rallies, which were orchestrated as pro-government, pro-war actions—with a few themes of labor struggles thrown in for cover. The labor officials' acceptance of the framework of "we Americans"—bosses and workers—is simply a product of their class collaboration with the employers. One pro-war argument with a social veneer that union officials sometimes promote is that war spending "is good for the economy" and means jobs.

In times of war, the bosses demand that working people "sacrifice" for the interests of "our country" and stop fighting to defend our wages, working conditions, and unions. But as the bosses press their assault, there will be no class peace. The fights that workers wage—whether they be union organizing drives, strikes, protests against cop brutality or against attacks on the right to abortion—cut through the attempts by the exploiters to blur these opposing class interests.

An increasing number of working people involved in this resistance will be among those most interested in discussing the socialist perspective of organizing a movement of workers and farmers that can make a revolution, take political power out of the hands of the warmakers, and join with millions in transforming the world.

'October Crisis': valuable weapon

The publication of Pathfinder's *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tómas Diez Acosta makes a new political weapon available to working people and youth, helping them to analyze and act in a world marked by the widening impact of capitalist depression, imperialist military aggression, and rebellions and resistance.

Working people will take ideas and inspiration from the book's presentation of the Cuban perspective—or, to put it another way, the working-class point of view—on the events of four decades ago.

During those days the superrich rulers of the United States, determined to roll back the Cuban Revolution, pushed the world to the precipice of nuclear war. The threat to use their missiles carried real weight, given the U.S. atom bombing of the civilian populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki less than two decades before. To this day, Washington remains the only power to have ever used nuclear weapons against human beings—a fact that puts into perspective its threats against Iraq, north Korea, and Iran for their alleged possession of "weapons of mass destruction."

In face of the imperialist colossus, the workers, farmers, and leadership of the Cuban Revolution did not flinch. As they mobilized militarily to defend their socialist revolution and its conquests of land reform, literacy, and human dignity, it was the Kennedy administration that blinked and halted its invasion plans, having been informed of the huge losses that would be inflicted on invading forces.

The book's text and photographs shed light on other aspects of the events as well, including the actions of thousands of young people and others who took to the streets of U.S. cities to oppose Washington's drive to war.

In addition to reading and studying the book, and encouraging others to do the same, socialist workers and youth have launched an international sales campaign to take advantage of the opportunities that have opened up with its publication. Starting several weeks ago and continuing over the next month, supporters of Pathfinder have given the new book pride of place in their efforts to place the revolutionary publisher's titles on the shelves of commercial bookstores, public libraries, and on the reading lists of college courses.

At the same time, socialist campaigners will feature the book on sales tables at plant gates, in working-class communities, and on college campuses. They will take the book, along with other Pathfinder titles, to conferences organized to discuss the meaning of the events of 40 years ago.

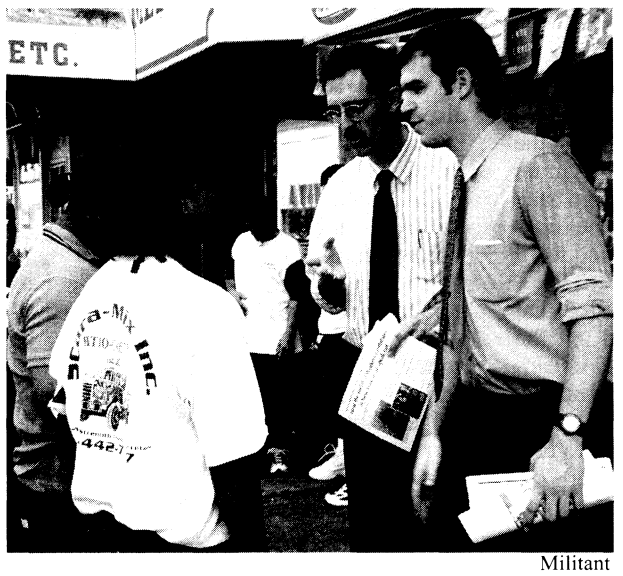
The interest being generated by the anniversary—a special window of opportunity that will be open for a few weeks—provides a particular incentive to get these efforts up and running immediately and to carry them out as a collective, concerted campaign.

'Militant' editorial staff changes

BY RÓGER CALERO

Martín Koppel is now the editor of the *Militant*. Koppel, a staff writer since 1991, is also the editor of the Spanish-language socialist monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. He is currently the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of New York and continues to join with other campaigners in the streets of New York to meet working people and youth and win them to the socialist alternative.

Paul Pederson has just joined the editorial staff. Pederson is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 12th District, which includes parts of Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan. Like Koppel, he has been soapboxing and street campaigning in New York, presenting a revolutionary working-class perspective.



Militant

Paul Pederson, right, and Martín Koppel campaigning for socialism on streets of Brooklyn, New York.

Prior to joining the *Militant* staff, Pederson, 27, worked as a meat packer in Long Island, New York, and was a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 342-50. He has become known among many co-workers as a socialist and politically active worker.

Pederson joined the Young Socialists in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, in 1996, after participating with a delegation of young people in the first U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange in Havana. He later worked as an airline worker and carried out political work together with other socialist workers in the Machinists union.

In 1998 Pederson moved to New York to serve a stint as a volunteer in the printshop that produces the *Militant* and Pathfinder books. At this summer's Socialist Workers Party convention he was elected to the party's National Committee.

On September 20 Pederson will be part of a four-day team to Puerto Rico together with Koppel and Chessie Molano, the Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor of Illinois. Reporting for the *Militant* and joining as supporters of the Puerto Rican independence struggle, they will take part in the Grito de Lares, the annual pro-independence celebration that marks the 1868 uprising in Puerto Rico against Spanish colonial rule.

CORRECTION

The article "Pathfinder opens new distribution center" in last week'sissue inadvertently omitted the name of one of the members of the Atlanta-based steering committee overseeing the work of the new Pathfinder distribution center. The five members are Holly Harkness, Bob Braxton, Maceo Dixon, Linda Joyce, and Paul Mailhot.

Buildup in Gulf

Continued from Page 2

ernment to work with them."

Paris has left little doubt that it will join the approaching war. Anti-American statements by some French officials have reflected not opposition to a new imperialist war in the Mideast, but a nationalist stance that is being used to try to rally support at home for French imperialism's foreign policy.

"On the one side there are the Americans and the British. On the other side are the Russians and the Chinese. We have to choose our camp," an unnamed senior French official told the *New York Times*. "Ultimately, we will want to re-engage in Iraq. We built a strategic relationship there. We have a market. We want the oil and we want to be in the game of rebuilding the country. If there were a new regime and we have not been with the Americans, where will we be?"

Hotel workers

Continued from front page

unionizing effort at the Fourth Street hotel after it got under way in 1996, seven years after the facility opened. Marriott has a record of resisting unions; only a small number of the 2,400 hotels it manages globally have union contracts.

Over the course of the fight, workers organized many lively picket lines and rallies in front of the hotel, often with hundreds participating. During conventions held at the hotel, workers picketed up to 16 hours a day. Many other unionists, nonunion workers, and youth joined in these solidarity actions, in which the union led chants and passed out flyers to explain the issues and gain support.

The union also organized a two-day strike and a boycott, persuaded some associations and companies to cancel stays at the Marriott, and filed unfair labor practice charges against the hotel.

A number of other hotels reached agreements with HERE Local 2 during the course of this fight. As a result, 88 percent of the city's "class A" hotels are unionized, up from 74 percent six years ago.

Meanwhile, workers remain on strike at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf. They held a three-day strike over Memorial Day weekend, worked five days, then walked out again. They are fighting for a reduction in the workload and improved pay.

On Labor Day, 300 hotel workers and supporters held a rally in front of the Courtyard Marriott. They chanted "Courtyard Marriott on strike—day and night," "Courtyard Marrriot is unfair," and "Don't check in, check out." The unionists hold picket lines from 6:00 a.m. to midnight.

Ramón Guevara, a worker at the Marriott on Fourth Street, told the rally, "Don't let them tell you that you can't win this fight. You will win this fight. I want to thank everyone here for supporting us at Fourth Street. If it can be won there it can be won anywhere."

Charles Durham has worked nine years at many different hotels through jobs dispatched out of the union hall. "Unions need to help each other," he said. "If we unite the government can't do anything."

At the Claremont Resort and Spa in Oakland, workers and their supporters picketed outside that hotel on Labor Day to protest the employers stalling on settling a contract with food and beverage workers over wages, benefits, and the right to unionize 140 spa workers.

Deborah Liatos is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 120.

FBI arrests

Continued from front page

Middle East after an airport screening machine registered traces of TNT in his bags.

"We're talking molecules here," stated Charles Lewis, a lawyer for Kariye. Lewis asserted that the whole incident was the result of technical mistakes by a machine designed to vacuum particles and pinpoint explosives. No bomb was ever found. More than 100 people from mosques around the Pacific Northwest rallied September 10 in support of Kariye, who is being held on two charges of Social Security fraud.

On September 13 police in Florida closed off a section of a main highway as they stopped and searched two cars being driven by three medical students. They took the action following a phone call made by a woman in Calhoun, Georgia, who said she overheard the students plotting a terrorist attack at a Shoney's restaurant.

The three individuals—Kambiz Butt, 25, Ayman Gheith, 27, and Omar Choudhary, 23—were detained and interrogated for 17 hours. They later told CNN that the conversation the woman claimed to have heard was actually about "bringing down" a car for school transportation for the next semester.

The three are U.S. citizens, of Jordanian or Pakistani background, who are enrolled at Ross University Medical School on the Caribbean island of Dominica. They were en route to Miami to begin a nine-week internship at Larkin Community Hospital. After the incident became headline news, the president of the hospital, Jack Michel, announced that the students would no longer be welcome to work there.

THE MILITANT

UK firefighters take strike vote despite government threats

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Hundreds of firefighters from around the United Kingdom rose to their feet to cheer and applaud September 12 as a Manchester conference of delegates of the Fire Brigades Union voted unanimously to ballot union members nationwide for strike action to back their pay claim. Outside, hundreds of fire crews staged a rally in support of the decision.

In response, the government has begun open preparations to use cops and soldiers as strikebreakers, as it did in 1977, the last time firefighters struck across the country.

The move toward a strike comes in the wake of a sustained campaign over the past few months for a 40 percent pay raise and against employer attempts to attack working conditions. "There are people in this station who are on income support because they can't afford to keep their families clothed and fed. We think that we are worth the money," said Mark Turner, a firefighter at Salford near Manchester.

In June 12,000 firefighters rallied in London to press their claim, while a further 5,000 rallied a month later in Glasgow. There have also been press reports of unofficial work-to-rule actions spreading from Scotland to fire stations around the United Kingdom.

Meeting in Blackpool days before the delegate conference, the Trades Union Council, the national labor federation, issued a statement backing the union's pay claim. Other unions are planning coordinated strike action with the firefighters to highlight the lack of proper fire safety cover.

The union anticipates that strike action will cause the possible shutdown on safety grounds of airports, the Channel Tunnel, the rail network, and the London Underground.

Both the employers and government have reacted sharply to the threatened walkout. "It defies comprehension that a union... thinks that it can reasonably hold the country to ransom over such an unreasonable wage demand," declared Jeremy Beecham of the Local Government Association, which employs the firefighters.

In an attempt to scapegoat the unionists for broader economic problems, British prime minister Anthony Blair claimed that a 40 percent pay raise would do "terrible damage" to the economy. The union has rejected a government demand that it hold off striking and submit its claim to a so-called "independent pay review."

In preparation for its attempt to break the planned strike, the government has already begun to train soldiers to take over firefighters' jobs. It has stated that 19,000 troops would be required to run fire stations and engines, and fight fires. London also plans to use cops in the strikebreaking effort.

London *Times* defense editor Michael Evans commented that "even with a medium-sized contribution [towards a war against Iraq] the added commitment to fighting fires across the country could put unbearable pressure on Britain's armed forces." Earlier this year government Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon admitted that the army was already "at the limits of our commitments."

While 650 soldiers underwent training in the use of breathing apparatuses as part of the planned strikebreaking effort, 6,000 regular and Territorial army soldiers have begun military exercises to test their abilities to get equipment and ammunition to the Gulf.

Workers in south Korea fight for shorter workweek

Workers in Seoul, south Korea, demand passage of legislation for a five-day, 40-hour workweek. Under pressure from unionists and other workers, the government has introduced a bill that would reduce the official workweek by 10 percent. Under this measure, however, the changes, starting in July 2003 with workplaces of 1,000 workers or more, would take years to implement. The official workweek in south Korea today is 44 hours, and many are forced to work much longer. Representatives of big business have resisted workers' demands, complaining that the legislation is "premature."

Australia gov't joins imperialist war drive on Iraq

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Australian prime minister John Howard has placed his Liberal-National Party government squarely behind U.S. imperialism in its buildup to war on Iraq. Defense minister Robert Hill has offered an armored brigade as part of a ground invasion.

The government's 100 percent endorsement of Washington's course has sparked some discussion in ruling circles. Former Labor Party prime minister Robert Hawke stated that the government was "leaping ahead almost of the United States."

Canberra's willingness to use "military force against Iraq seems at times ahead of U.S. policy," wrote Geoffrey Barker in the *Australian Financial Review.*

The leader of the Labor parliamentary opposition, Simon Crean, has appealed to Australian nationalist sentiments in reacting to the government's statements, criticizing Howard for his "lapdog approach." Crean called for the resumption of United Nations weapons inspections of Iraq, citing the need for "diplomacy first, action second."

Howard himself has said that any request by Washington will be judged "against national interests." Foreign minister Alexander Downer has dismissed criticism of the government policy as "appeasement."

Some commentators have stated that the army of Australian imperialism is overcommitted and incapable of putting together the kind of force offered by Hill.

Navy ships are presently patrolling seas to the north of the country, charged with intercepting and turning away any boatloads of would-be immigrants, including those seeking political asylum. Reservists have been pulled into the rotation of the 1,200 Australian troops still spearheading the imperialist forces occupying East Timor under the UN flag.

The government's stance is consistent with its involvement in the Middle East and Gulf region over the last decade. Canberra committed naval and other forces to the 1990–91 U.S.-led Gulf War on Iraq. Warships of the Australian Navy have been involved in patrols in the Arab-Persian Gulf that have enforced the United Nations-imposed trade sanctions on Iraq. Currently, the Australian special forces are operating in Afghanistan under U.S. command.

The government's statements have not been without their consequences.

In August the Iraqi government put four shipments of Australian wheat on hold, ostensibly because of suspected "contamination." A further 500,000-ton order of the grain was also suspended.

Iraq and Egypt are important markets for Australian wheat.

Saad Al Samarai, the senior Iraqi diplomat in Australia, said there were problems with "the military phase of Australian policy" and Canberra's "iron language."

"You want us to do business with you at the same time as you would slaughter us?" said Iraqi official A.K. Al-Hashimi in an interview with the *Sydney Morning Herald* at the end of August. By "going all the way with the USA, Australia should forget about the Iraqi market now and for a long time to come," he said. "Iraq has a right to impose sanctions too, you know."

In response, the Australian Wheat Board sent representatives to Baghdad and reached agreement to resume grain shipments, on condition that Canberra adopt a more conciliatory tone.

Ron Poulsen is a member of the Maritime Union of Australia

Grain workers battle lockout in Canada

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—This will be "a long and bitter stoppage," said Robert Green. "The companies are out to break our union. They want complete control over how our people work or don't work."

Green spoke to *Militant* reporters at a union-organized picket line outside grain elevators at the Port of Vancouver. He is one of several hundred workers locked out at midnight on August 25 by the bosses' outfit, the British Columbia Terminal Operators Association.

The picket lines were organized by Local 333 of the Grain Workers Union, which covers the 600 locked-out workers. More than 200 of them were laid off earlier this year as shipments slowed through the port—which handles 70 percent of Canada's grain exports—partly under the impact of the current drought in crop-growing areas. The lockout has also deprived some dockworkers and truck drivers of work.

According to a spokesman for Agricore, the company that operates the United Grain Growers terminal at the port, shipments this crop year could fall as low as 7 million metric tons, down from 10 million in 2001. He added that before the current drought cut crop yields, as much as 16 million tons moved through the port.

The grain handlers have been without a contract since January 1 of last year. Four days after the lockout 400 union members unanimously rejected the most recent contract offer by the employers association, tabled on August 22. Workers cited threatened job cuts as a key factor in their "no" vote. The terminal operators' proposal would allow them to schedule six days of 10-hour shifts, followed by three days off—a move that could eliminate the jobs of 20 percent of the union's membership. The bosses also want to slash lifetime recall rights down to two years.

Before the meeting union president Robert MacPherson explained, "Basically they are asking us to vote to lose our jobs. Nobody's going to do that." Later he put the onus on the companies for the fact that grain was not moving. "We're prepared to go back to work if the companies remove the lockout," he said. "We'll resume work and we'll resume negotiations."

The media coverage has suggested that the grain handlers "no" vote and not the lockout is a blow to Prairie farmers. A headline in the August 28 *Vancouver Sun* stated, "City grain handlers dispute adds to farm woes. Millions of dollars of worth of grain is behind picket lines."

At a union-organized press conference September 2, Shannon Storey, the women's president of the 8,000-member National Farmers Union, expressed a different point of view. "Farmers are not being hurt by workers asking for a fair deal," she said. "Farmers are being hurt because employers, who are making as much money out of us as they possibly can, don't feel obliged to pass a fair portion back to workers."

On September 3 the Canadian Wheat Board started moving grain through the Port of Prince Rupert, located far north of Vancouver. The same companies comprising the Terminal Operators' Association in Vancouver are shareholders in Prince Rupert Grain Ltd.

Around 100 Prince Rupert workers are also members of the Grain Workers Union. Like the locked-out Vancouver workers, they have been working without a contract.

On September 9, grain handlers from Vancouver set up picket lines at the Prince Rupert grain elevators. "The strategy is to try to bring the employer back to the bargaining table," said Local 333 secretary treasurer Ron Burton. To accomplish that, he added, "we have to shut down the flow of grain on the West Coast." Two days later a judge granted the bosses an injunction that barred the picketing.

Joe Young is a meat packer in the Vancouver area. Beverly Bernardo contributed to this article.